

# THE Library Journal

[MONTHLY]

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THE CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS AT NEW YORK

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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

BY JUSTIN WINSOR, BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION: I think we meet with a confidence greater than last year, and with the feeling that a good work has been begun, and well begun. Our purpose then was undefined as compared with our present aims. We have fostered a fellow-feeling that has been helpful to each other, and convinced those not *of* us that they can well be *with* us, in spirit if not in brotherhood. We have vindicated the profession before the ordinary working-day world, and have brought those who by training can best affiliate with us to a better conception of the work a librarian can do. There are still corporators and civic councillors who conceive that the extent of a librarian's duties is to pass books over a counter, and who fancy there is no special training necessary to administer a library. They say of us, we have nothing to do and are fully equal to it. We must expect to find such people using authority vested in them on general principles to control purposes of which they have no conception; upon whom popular suffrage has bestowed the right to an opinion, but upon which nature has put a veto. Fortunately we shall find side by side with them at the same board those who have modesty and comprehension. It is well that we encounter foes as well as friends: the conflict will sharpen our wits; and I know of no profession

whose followers have greater need to know men as they are, since a mission that is to ameliorate mankind must have its base of operations in a thorough knowledge of it.

I must say, however, that scholarly attainments do not always make a broad or circumspect mind. I have sometimes found as supreme ignorance of our work in the man of cultivation as in the man of affairs; with this difference, that you can impress the scholar with the scholarly elements, but it is by no means so easy to impress the mercantile perceptions with what our profession calls for of their equivalent. Scholarship affiliates with scholarship, whatever the diversity of range; but the money-makers are apt to think that a knowledge of books precludes of necessity the business habit, which is in fact an instinct often independent of training. The man of trade knows too well that competition has engrossed his time to the exclusion, in many instances, of almost all the culture of mind beyond the range of business methods; but this last is undeniably a culture. He reckons success by the palpable figures on the credit side of accounts. He sees no objection to giving the manager of a corporation with a capital of a million a salary which, in his judgment, would adequately pay two or three librarians, each with an equal amount of invested capital in his charge, because it

yields an income of mental rather than of creature comforts.

We must expect this judgment; but it is in our power gradually to change it. As long as the average standard of librarianships is low, we shall have estimates formed on such average. Until the profession itself can educate its successors in numbers equal to the growth of libraries, we must expect that men who have failed in the shop, in the school-room, and in the pulpit will successfully urge their claims upon easy-going committees. The body of librarians, I know, is not accountable for these accessions. Our members gravitate to us by the choice of others. But the remedy is nevertheless in ourselves. We must make the importance of our calling obvious to the least observant. We must draw to us by personal acts of kindness, by the help which we can bestow, by the ill-directed labor which we can prevent, such a body of the rising generation whose gratitude will ally itself with appreciation, that we shall not in the end have to ask for consideration, because it will become a debt that good sense will pay.

There is no doubt that individual librarians here and there will accomplish this of themselves, for strength of purpose and a determination to succeed always grow in the face of obstacles; and, paradox as it may seem, energy is often expended only to be stored.

But the benefit to the individual should be the gain to the class; and as the profession gains the public is recompensed proportionately. Such is the object of this Association. Its members are to have the stimulus of common endeavor and a share in common advantages, and the public is to reap the harvest.

We need not seek far for the argument of our being. You remember the wit's five reasons for drinking—

" Good wine, a friend, or being dry,  
Or lest you should be by and by,  
Or any other reason why."

It is never difficult to find excuses for the inevitable. To us they may be as satisfactory as our wit's comprehensiveness; but to others they will be superfluous unless we justify expectation.

The efforts with which we signalized our national Centennial have already begun to show results. We owe thanks to one of the departments of the general government that, in making a report on the libraries of the country, they made a cyclopædia of our science that has given wider views of it, and opened new avenues to enterprise and munificence.

We owe it to the Secretary of this Association that we are banded together in a common cause, and that we have a journal for the interchange of views and for the advancement of library economy.

Finally, we owe it to our own example that a general spirit of emulation has risen in Europe, and that some of us, next month in London, can meet our brothers and impart and derive benefit and encouragement. I will not now enlarge upon our work during the past year; that is to be the subject of discussion to-day and to-morrow. We shall learn that methods of co-operation have been and can be applied to the work of libraries, as they are now applied in so many other directions. If affiliations of this sort work much good, they can likewise be abused, as recent events have shown. Banding together for mutual assistance and the common weal may, if we are unwary, present a ready organization to be used for unworthy purposes. We cannot be too cautious in order to prevent such abuse. It should not be overlooked that an association of librarians exists primarily for the benefit of the libraries, which they represent and which they hold in trust for the public, which supports them, directly or indirectly.

I think we may rest assured that the kind greeting which our new Association has received, and the interest with which its proceedings have been regarded, is an

evidence that our work is thought by others to be in the right direction. Hope, you know, has been called the dream of those who are *awake*. I trust that the aspirations of a vitality of spirit are ours, and that

we may find incentives in such dreams. Above all, let us conceive we have raised expectations that we are bound to fulfil. To that end we are here; to that end we shall separate; to that end let us live our lives.

## STATE LEGISLATION IN THE MATTER OF LIBRARIES.

BY WM. F. POOLE, CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

FOR the past forty years, crude and ill-digested schemes of legislation on the subject of libraries have existed in most of the Northern states. Millions of dollars have been expended in purchasing district-school libraries which cannot be found, and which form no part of the library statistics of the country. Perhaps the greatest impediment to the general adoption of the modern public library system is the improvidence and wastefulness which have everywhere attended these schemes.

District-school libraries were first established by law in the state of New York, in 1835. In 1838, the General Assembly passed an act appropriating \$55,000 annually for supplying books to these libraries, and requiring towns to raise an equal sum by taxation for this purpose. The motive which prompted this legislation was praiseworthy, but the methods adopted were ruinous.

Massachusetts, under the lead of Horace Mann, adopted a similar statute in 1837; Connecticut followed in 1839; Rhode Island and Iowa in 1840; Indiana in 1841; Maine in 1844; Ohio in 1847; Wisconsin in 1848; Missouri in 1853; California and Oregon in 1854; Illinois in 1855; Pennsylvania in 1864; Kansas and Virginia in 1870; New Jersey in 1871; Kentucky and Minnesota in 1873; and Colorado in 1876. In states which have adopted the scheme within the past twenty years, fortunately very little money has been spent, and in several states none. Massachusetts repealed her statute for sustaining

district libraries in 1850. The concurrent testimony from all these states is, that the scheme has been a failure. The books rapidly disappeared, for they had no proper care, and the public soon lost their interest in the collections.

No state has carried out the district scheme so persistently and extravagantly as New York, and, as a result, New York to-day has on her statute book no law authorizing taxation for the support of public libraries. The enterprise and intelligence, however, of a few of her inland cities are in advance of the legislation of the state, for they have free municipal libraries supported indirectly by local taxation. A few extracts from the official reports of the State Superintendent of Schools will show the practical results of the district-library system in New York state. The superintendent for 1861, in his annual report, says: "Concurrent testimony from nearly every quarter of the State represents the libraries in the rural districts as almost totally unused, and rapidly deteriorating in value. The whole number of volumes reported during the past year is 1,286,536, which is 317,674 less than was reported in 1853; although \$55,000 has been appropriated each year since that date for library purposes." The superintendent for 1862 reports, that "in the last five years \$139,798 have been expended in the rural districts for library purposes, while the number of volumes reported has diminished in the same period from 1,288,070 to 1,206,075—a loss of 81,995



volumes as a return for the expenditure named." He speaks of the rural libraries as "a motley collection of books ranging in character from Headley's 'Sacred Mountains' to the 'Pirate's Own Book,' scattered among the families of the districts, constituting a part of the family library, serving as toys for children, crowded into cupboards, thrown into cellars, or stowed away in lofts." In cities and larger villages, the books were better cared for; but the funds appropriated for books were generally applied to other purposes. It might be supposed that a scheme which produced such results would be short-lived; but it has not been. The superintendent for 1875 says: "The district-library system has not worked well in this State, and has utterly failed to accomplish what was expected of it. The libraries have fallen into disuse, and in a large majority of districts have become practically valueless." "The total amount of appropriation since 1838 is \$2,035,100. I doubt whether more than one half of the state appropriation has for many years been used for library purposes."

The legislation for school libraries in several of the Western states has been spasmodic, raising and expending large sums of money for a short period, and then suspending all support for a term of years. Ohio in 1853 laid a tax of one tenth of a mill on the dollar upon all the taxable property of the state for furnishing libraries to all its common schools. In three years, 332,579 volumes were placed in school libraries. A suspicion arose that there was a large steal in the contracts for supplying these libraries. The tax was then suspended for two years, and at the end of that period the number of volumes reported had fallen off more than 100,000. In 1860, the tax levy was restored. In 1865, the number of volumes reported was only 350,000. In 1868 the State Superintendent says: "The books are scattered or lost in large numbers. Township school officers

are puzzled to know what to do with the few books remaining, and are calling for the privilege of selling them at public auction, or to be otherwise relieved of their care." In 1869, only 258,371 volumes were reported; and since that year no statistics of these libraries have been published.

In Indiana, the district system has passed through a similar experience. In 1853, a general tax levy was laid, which in three years raised \$266,597, and purchased 226,213 volumes. In 1861, the number of volumes had increased to 315,209 volumes; but in 1874 the number had decreased to 253,545 volumes, of which only 85,366 had been taken out during the year. The Public Library of Indianapolis, with 14,560 volumes, circulated the same year 101,281 volumes.

The report of the United States Bureau of Education of 1876, from which these statistics are drawn, gives some detailed reports from the county superintendents of Indiana for 1874, which illustrate the practical operation of the district-library scheme, from which I make a few selections:

*Bartholomew Co.*—Number of volumes, 2572; number taken out, 395. Many of the books have been lost; the remainder are in bad condition, and but little read. The expense overruns the benefit derived.

*Carroll Co.*—Number of volumes, 3428; taken out, 428. Our libraries are in poor condition; many of the books are stale, and the people take but little interest in them.

*Decatur Co.*—Number of volumes, 3637; taken out, 528. The books are but little read, and are slowly but surely becoming scattered and lost.

*DeKalb Co.*—Number of volumes, 2573; taken out, 50.

*Fountain Co.*—Number of volumes, 2748; taken out, 546. Our township libraries are a general failure. More than half the books have been carried away and lost. Those that remain are practically of no value.



Time will not permit me to trace the operation of the district-library scheme in other states. This examination would show results similar to those already given. In some localities the libraries, though small and badly selected, have been cared for and have benefited, at least, the families which have had them in charge. They have doubtless, in isolated instances, helped individuals to form habits for reading, and to inspire a taste for better books. The scheme, however, as a measure of public policy, has been a failure; for the good it has accomplished bears no reasonable proportion to its cost. It stands also in the way of the general adoption of the more recent and successful method of maintaining public libraries.

The modern public-library system which has gone into practical operation, both in this country and in England, within the last twenty-five years, avoids the practical mistakes on which district libraries have made shipwreck. It asks for no appropriation from the state for its support, and hence requires no state supervision. Those communities only which have the population, wealth, and disposition to support a public library can have one. It is a local institution, and the only function of state legislation in the matter is, giving these communities the right to levy a local tax for the support of the library, and affording it the same protection which is given to other municipal institutions. A library adapted for public use is something more than a collection of books. It is a collection of books selected with intelligence, catalogued and arranged in an orderly manner, protected by judicious rules, and under wise and efficient management. The district libraries have failed from the want of such supervision. No city or town, which has intelligence enough to vote to tax itself for a public library, will lack the persons of sufficient education and culture to manage it, when so much printed information on the subject is now avail-

able. Every taxpayer also constitutes himself a committee of advice and visitation; and if abuses exist, they are likely to be speedily remedied.

Twelve states of our Union have enacted laws for the maintenance of public libraries, and most of these states have changed their laws from time to time by removing restrictions on the amount of taxation, and giving the people greater freedom in making appropriations for this purpose. Massachusetts, for instance, in 1851 authorized a town or city to raise a sum not exceeding one dollar for each ratable poll for the first year, and twenty-five cents yearly thereafter. In 1859 a larger tax was permitted, and in 1866 a city or town was authorized to raise any sum it deemed necessary for the establishment and support of a public library.

The present condition of legislature on the subject of public libraries in the several states, is exceedingly varied—some statutes being very brief and others extended; some placing the libraries under the control of an independent board of directors, and others under the local boards of education, and others still making no provision on the subject. Our secretary, in proposing that I prepare a paper on this subject, suggested that I draft the form of a statute, which, after consideration and revision by the conference, might be recommended for general adoption by states which have no legislation in the matter of public libraries. After some reflection on this point, it has seemed to me a more judicious plan for the conference not to commit itself to any specific form of legislation at this time, and thus divide our forces on methods; but to recommend, and so far as the individual members can do, to promote, the establishment of public libraries in all parts of the country where they do not exist. This can be done through the medium of the public prints, by setting forth their advantages, explaining their practical operations, imparting infor-

mation, and answering objections. When public attention is awakened, and the need of such institutions are felt, legislation on the subject will naturally follow, which, though simple and perhaps crude, may go as far as public opinion in the state will at first sanction. The precise form of legislation, provided it gives a community the right to tax itself sufficiently to establish and maintain a library, is not matter of much importance at the outset. The main object is to commence; and if there be an enlightened public opinion sustaining the library, any minor imperfection of legislation will correct itself or will be harmless. Without such a public opinion behind it, the best form of legislation will not save it. It has seemed to me, therefore, that I can best accomplish the object I have in view in this paper by briefly sketching the form in which legislation in this country on the subject of public libraries has manifested itself, and noticing some of the merits and defects of this legislation.

New Hampshire, as early as 1849, passed a statute allowing towns to raise by taxation such sum for the support of a public library as the voters might determine. Maine and Connecticut adopted and still maintain the limit of taxation of one dollar on each ratable poll for the first year, and of twenty-five cents for each subsequent year. This rate is too meagre to support a healthy library. Each of these states is wealthier than New Hampshire, and yet both combined have fewer libraries, and raise only about half as much money for their support. Vermont began in 1865 with the New Hampshire law, but fell back in 1867 to that of Maine and Connecticut; and hence its libraries are few and feeble. Massachusetts commenced, as we have seen, with the same plan of limited taxation, from which it advanced to the adoption of the New Hampshire law. It has now 127 public libraries, containing more than a million volumes. In none of the New England states is there any

legislation regulating the manner in which public libraries shall be managed. These details are determined by the votes or ordinances of the several towns and cities.

The statute of Texas, enacted in 1871, is a model of conciseness, and, supported by public opinion, is sufficient. In a form slightly amended and condensed, it reads as follows: "Any incorporated city may establish a free public library, and may make such regulations and grant such part of its revenues for the management and increase thereof as the municipal government of the city may determine." In Wisconsin, legislation began in 1868, by permitting towns to raise by taxation yearly \$150 for the purchase of books; and in 1872, cities and towns were authorized to raise a tax of one mill on the dollar for the support of public libraries. Subscription and social libraries, many of them under the intelligent management of ladies' associations, are maintained in nearly all the principal towns of the Northwestern states; and these often develop into free public libraries. Iowa also grants a mill tax.

In Ohio and Indiana, public libraries are under control of the local boards of education; and few of these institutions have been so successful as the public libraries of Cincinnati and Indianapolis. In Ohio, the immediate care of the libraries is committed to a board of seven managers appointed by the board of education chiefly from citizens at large. These managers have only the power of a committee. They may recommend measures and nominate officers; but they can make no appointments and vote no money. In cities of the first and second class, a tax of one tenth of a mill is annually levied for the purchase of books. The expense of buildings, salaries, and incidental charges is defrayed from the general educational fund. In 1875, a law was passed permitting any city or incorporated village to establish a public library, and to expend upon it any amount which the municipal authorities may determine.

The legislation of Indiana is very simple and concise, being all embraced in a single paragraph of an act passed in March, 1871, concerning the election and duties of a board of school commissioners. One of the duties of the commissioners is as follows: "To levy a tax each year of not exceeding one fifth of one mill on each dollar of taxable property, . . . for the support of free libraries, . . . and to disburse any and all revenue raised by such tax levy in the purchase of books for, and in the fitting up of suitable rooms for, such libraries, and for salaries to librarians; also to make and enforce such regulations as they may deem necessary, . . . and to prescribe penalties for the violation of such regulations." Here is ample authority for the establishment and administration of a public library.

The objection to the system of Ohio and Indiana is, that boards of education and school commissioners are not selected and appointed with reference to their qualifications for managing public libraries, and practically they give very little attention to the subject. Hence they are required to act in matters upon which they have little or no knowledge. They must rely on the judgment of managers or committees having special supervision of the libraries, or act on impulse or prejudice. The persons who have the supervision and knowledge, ought also to have the power of making appointments, fixing salaries, and disbursing the funds of the library.

The library statute of Illinois, being one of the most recent, is the most extended and perhaps the most carefully considered instance of legislation on this subject. It creates an independent board of nine directors, nominated by the Mayor, and approved by the city council, to hold office for three years. Not more than one director can be a member of the city council. This board has the exclusive control of the library, making all the appointments, fixing salaries, disbursing all its funds, and with

power to construct or lease library buildings. Towns and villages may levy a tax for libraries not to exceed two mills on the dollar; cities of less than 100,000 inhabitants, one mill; and cities of over 100,000 inhabitants, one fifth of a mill. This tax would give the Chicago Public Library about \$60,000 a year. The only point in which any other department of the city government comes in to effect these provisions, is in the fact that the city council may, at the time of making the annual city appropriations as the basis of taxation, appropriate a less amount than that named in the statute as a maximum. The council may appropriate one half the sum named, or may kill the library by making no appropriation at all. Here, in another form, the same danger arises that was mentioned in connection with the statutes of Ohio and Indiana. City councilmen are not appointed to administer public libraries; and, perhaps, with the multiplicity of their other duties, know less about libraries than if they were not councilmen. An amendment depriving the city council of the right to limit the appropriation, would remove this danger; but would it be good policy to recommend such an amendment? City councils fix the appropriations for schools and every other class of municipal expenditures. Panics and financial disturbances, such as now exist, necessarily compel cities to curtail expenses. Might not a popular prejudice arise against libraries if they were the only department whose expenditures the municipal government could not control? This question, I am told, was carefully considered when the Illinois statute was drafted, and it was decided to give city councils this power, relying upon an enlightened public opinion to sustain the libraries, in case they should temporarily suffer from this cause. I am not prepared to say that this view of the matter is not the correct one. The resources of the public libraries of Illinois have been curtailed by the appropriations

of city councils during the late business and financial disturbance; but they have not suffered more than the public schools, the streets, the charities, and other objects of municipal expenditure. Public apprecia-

tion of these institutions, based on the work they are doing, is, after all, the only sure guaranty that they will be liberally supported, enlarged, and cherished.

### EUROPEAN LIBRARIES.

BY PROF. E. C. MITCHELL, CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

IT has been my privilege to visit most of the principal libraries of the old world; my object in doing so was chiefly to see what they contain in the department of biblical literature and criticism. At the same time, it was natural for a practical librarian to take some notice of the appliances for convenience and the methods of management, and to look for hints in regard to the details of library work.

Though the accumulation of ages and the wealth of nations have enriched the libraries of Europe as collections of books to an extent which America cannot hope to see in many generations, and though much ingenuity has been exercised, and a great amount of money lavished upon the appointments of libraries, there has been no such intelligent concert of active and thorough systematizing of work in the details of library administration as has characterized American library service during the last twenty years.

Bibliographers and librarians of Europe have little bond of interest, or even of acquaintanceship. Each works in his own sphere and develops his method and improvements out of his own experience; and though much good work is done in this way, it is not such work as intelligent co-operation might have produced. It was very amusing to me to observe the utterly crude conceptions possessed by leading library officials on the subject of cataloguing. Some of their answers and opinions were quite equal in

absurdity to anything recorded in the testimony before the British parliamentary commission. Even England, which comes nearest to America in opportunities for intelligence, comes far behind us, as yet, in library work. The British Museum Library, which is justly the pride of the nation, and which has the best building and probably the best arrangement of any large library in Europe, is still dependent upon an old-fashioned manuscript catalogue with no subject-index. Having occasion to look up the history of English grammar for an American scholar, I spent several days in that library in the effort; but though a most cheerful and painstaking assistance was rendered me by the acting librarian, it proved to be impossible to ascertain from any existing resource what works upon English grammar were in the library. The only means at hand were publishers' trade lists and bibliographical dictionaries, which we could consult for authors' names and then look for them in the library catalogue.

Of course there are some new and smaller libraries in England which are more easily handled and have been more thoroughly classified and catalogued. The public library at Birmingham is one of these. Its librarian is a gentleman of culture and enterprise, and he has made himself familiar with American methods, and the library is well managed. The same is said to be true of the libraries of Liverpool and Manchester, which I have

not personally visited, and doubtless of many others.

But on the Continent the internal management of libraries, either great or small, will afford but little additional suggestion to the experience of an American librarian. Enterprise and progress make their way slowly in old countries, and librarians of old libraries are about the last to feel their inspiration. If the delegation from this Association which visits Europe the present month could become a corps of trumpeters to wake up the sleepy custodians of literary treasure, at least so far as to make them find out what is contained in their own collections, they would confer a lasting obligation upon the world of letters.

The National Library at Paris has made, as is well known, an elaborate and costly attempt at a printed catalogue, which will always be valuable but must always be incomplete. The Vatican Library at Rome has no catalogue, and the visitor sees no books, nothing but cases, access to which is about as difficult as it is to the cave of Machpelah at Hebron. The volumes and manuscripts are literally buried, and the number of them is not known to anybody above ground. The Ambrosian Library at Milan and that of St. Mark at Venice are a little more accessible, but no means exist for informing a visitor as to their precise contents. The Royal Library at Berlin is well catalogued and efficiently conducted, as might be expected in that great centre of liberal learning. The same is in a measure true of the libraries at Vienna and Munich. One of the best libraries in Europe as regards quality of books, arrangement, and classification is that belonging to the University of Athens in Greece. Though one of the smaller libraries, numbering less than two hundred thousand volumes, it is to a large extent new, having been purchased during the last

forty or fifty years, and in this respect it has the advantage over older collections.

The antiquity and the enormous size of most of the libraries thus far referred to, though constituting their great value, are also the chief obstacles to their proper manipulation. It requires a powerful motive to induce any board of control to take in hand a new system of classification and face a formidable array of venerable books, the accumulation of ages, five hundred thousand strong.

American visitors to Europe, therefore, must not be surprised if they find no libraries in the old world which are comparable, for choice selection of works, and perfect arrangement of contents, and ingenious facility of use, with the Boston Public Library, nor even any old libraries whose contents have been so thoroughly analyzed and classified and indexed as those of the Athenæum or of Harvard or Brown universities.

On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that there are to be found in those libraries abroad treasures of priceless value which are not and can never be duplicated upon these shores. I refer to the manuscript collections handed down from a great antiquity, and furnishing original resources for knowledge in all departments of history, archaeology, and biblical learning. Of these, the British Museum contains nearly fifty thousand, and the Bodleian at Oxford about half as many. The largest collection is to be found at the National Library in Paris, being estimated at from eighty to an hundred thousand. Nearly all the older European libraries possess some of these manuscripts. If some co-operative plan could be devised for cataloguing these which would be descriptive and accurate, which would tell the world of scholars where they may be found and what they contain, it would do a great service to liberal learning.

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

SEPTEMBER, 1877.

*Communications for the JOURNAL, and all inquiries concerning it, should be addressed to MELVIN DEWEY, 1 Tremont Place, Boston. Also library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances.*

*Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to F. LEVINSKY, P. O. Box 4030, New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.*

*Exchanges and editors' copies should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 37 Park Row, New York.*

*The JOURNAL addresses itself exclusively to library interests, admitting to its advertising as well as to its reading-matter columns only what concerns the librarian as librarian. It does not undertake to review books unless specially relating to library and bibliographical topics.*

*The Editors of the JOURNAL are not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications.*

*Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of ten cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.*

THE second annual Conference of American Librarians, rounding the first year of the American Library Association, proved a no less successful meeting than that at which the Association was so successfully started. We give up this number of the JOURNAL to a full report of the proceedings, not so minute, however, as that for last year, because that outlay could not safely be repeated, and perhaps not so accurate, because many of the leading speakers left in the party for Europe, before they could have opportunity to revise their remarks. But the report fairly represents the Conference, which, if it did not listen to so many papers as last year, accomplished more of practical work, to which it bent itself bravely. Courtesies were very freely extended to the Conference from all sides,—with the exception of the one library which perhaps the visiting librarians cared most to see,—and the social features were as pleasant as the business sessions were profitable. The daily press of New York welcomed the librarians cordially, with understanding of what they came for, and reported the proceedings liberally: if these conferences should do nothing else, they would be abundantly useful in inspiring the local communities among which they are held with a thoughtful and helpful appreciation of the real value of good library work.

THAT the Co-operation Committee had done good service stood proved from the single fact that its catalogue card had already been ordered by the hundred thousand, at a saving to the libraries concerned nearly equal to the whole amount paid into the treasury of the Association for membership during the year. But the full importance of its work became very evident at the Conference. The careful attention and discussion given to its several reports fixed many points, and most of the others were referred, after discussion, to the special committee with power. Before the fall is ended, consequently, the Association will possess a useful and consistent code of recommendations for uniform cataloguing. Recommendations, be it noted, for the librarians of the Association have had too much practical experience with the nature of things and with human nature to think of enforcing rules that do not commend themselves without enforcement. The Association is not a mandatory body, nor does it assume infallibility. The difficulty against which Mr. Poole, as the Martin Luther of the Conference, frequently protested, has therefore no existence: it is not expected that large existing libraries should revolutionize settled systems for the sake of ideal but inconvenient uniformity. But a uniform system, for the value of those who can conveniently use it, is none the less desirable. Uniformity among the libraries and the book trade is also desirable, and the co-operation of publishers,—who were represented and were made especially welcome at the Conference,—with library interests is of the greatest importance. The publishers have themselves recognized this, and in the *Publishers' Weekly* of only so long ago as April 29th, 1876, may be found, in answer to a "prize question," a schedule for uniform cataloguing, obtained by co-operative correspondence through the book trade, which differs but slightly, in its scheme for title-entries, from that reported to the Conference. The report of the special committee on title-entries, including abbreviations and designation of sizes, will give the final *data* for the printed title-slip which it is proposed to ask the publishers to issue, and we may then hope for a basis of cataloguing common to the book trade and to libraries. We are glad to be able to state that a leading publisher has already prepared such a slip, as a proof for criticism and suggestion, which we should enclose with this issue of the JOURNAL did not the extraordinary restrictions at present enforced by the Post Office Depart-



ment forbid the carrying out of this part of the JOURNAL's plan.

THE continuation of Poole's Index was one of the most prominent and most interesting questions before the Conference; it is now fully and finally in the hands of the committee, who are charged with the arrangements both for the compilation of the work, by co-operative labor, among the libraries, and for its publication. English co-operation will also be asked. If Mr. Poole succeeds, as we all hope, in carrying out his plan on its present scale, he will leave behind him a monument of which any man might be proud. A proper and complete system of cross-references, it must be emphasized, is one of the essentials of the work, and this leads us to suggest—what might well have been considered at the Conference—that the preparation of such a system, as a uniform basis for future cross-references, is another important work that may possibly be carried out by co-operative counsel. Such a system, in consistent entirety, can be based only upon a logical and minute classification of knowledge, such as Brunet set on foot; some such system of course exists, in some shape, as the basis of any well-worked catalogue recognizing subjects, though only the results remain apparent when the framework is taken away. But the projects of the new Poole's Index, the classified (second) volume of the American Catalogue, and the Library Manual elaborated in the last issue of the JOURNAL, not to speak of individual library catalogues in the future, give opportunity for the preparation and application of such a skeleton system at an actual saving to any one of these related enterprises. To make the skeleton complete, and to solve such questions as under which synonym, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, or other, actual groupings should be made, requires a systematized search through all the leading classed catalogues and even through the dictionary. Printed in tabular form, this systematization would save future cataloguers who might desire to adopt such a system, a world of trouble, and the leading divisions agreed upon might also serve as a basis for the classification in uniform library statistics and in publishers' catalogues, so that the entire system of book statistics, as far as may be, would admit of consistent tabulation and direct comparison.

MUCH important new work was placed in the hands of special committees. The growth of public libraries makes the question of their

government, now put to the test in Boston, especially pressing, and what may be called the missionary Committee must deal most carefully with this problem. It was generally agreed that free libraries are vain delusions unless based on the intelligent desire of the local community, and reflecting its needs and its appreciation, yet that their continuance should not be endangered by the spasmodic "economy," really wasteful, often attacking local politics. It was suggested, therefore, (1) that a *minimum* tax should be provided for by incorporation from the state; (2) that beyond that *minimum*, the tax should be within control of the local government, reflecting local appreciation of the library and inspiring its management with a pressing motive for cultivating the popular sentiment; (3) that library government should otherwise be entirely in the hands of a special library board, representing the town, but having elements of permanence. The work of the Association must therefore be in fostering popular appreciation of public libraries and promoting permissive legislation which shall avoid the mistakes of the past. The committee on the distribution of public documents may perform a double service to the public in checking the reckless extravagance in their distribution, and in causing those issued to be placed where they will be really useful; and that on exchange of duplicates should be able to effect a practical economy for the libraries.

FINALLY, the Association did a good thing in endeavoring to broaden its usefulness by practically throwing open its doors to all who are interested in its work, and it is difficult to foresee any selfish interest that could make it worth while to abuse this privilege by capturing the Association. But what was most satisfactory was the splendid delegation, both in quantity and quality, which carries our greetings and our God speed to England. From the international amity and co-operative agreement which we look to see brought about at the English Conference,—to whose proceedings we shall probably give up the November issue of the JOURNAL,—we may fairly hope great things. Doubtless a great deal may be learned by each side from the other and a great deal of valuable work be done co-operatively in common, and the spirit in which the older librarians of England have welcomed their younger brethren from America is prophetic of everything that is good.



## THE PROCEEDINGS.

## FIRST SESSION.

[TUESDAY MORNING.]

The first annual meeting of the American Library Association (the second national Conference of Librarians) opened at the lecture-room of the Young Men's Christian Association of New York, Tuesday, September 4th, 1877. The meeting was called to order at 10.30 A.M. by Mr. Justin Winsor, President of the Association, who delivered the President's address.

(See p. 5-7.)

## CONSTITUTION.

THE PRESIDENT called attention to the Constitution for the Association submitted by the Executive Board through the LIBRARY JOURNAL (V. I., p. 253) under which the operations of the Board had since been carried on. It was read by the Secretary and unanimously adopted.

## COMMITTEES.

By the suggestion of the President, and on motion of Mr. Poole, the following committees were appointed:

*On Order of Business.*—Messrs. Poole, Homes, and Dewey.

*On Resolutions.*—Messrs. Spofford, Brevoort, and Jackson.

*On Nominating Executive Board.*—Messrs. Van Name, Peoples, and Pool.

*On Representation at English Conference.*—Messrs. Cutter and Greene, and Miss Godfrey.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

The President having called upon the Treasurer for his annual report, the Secretary stated that, by the resolution adopted at Philadelphia, the Secretary was to perform the duties of both the Secretary and Treasurer; that he had found it impossible to do so, and had requested Mr. Evans, of Indianapolis, to act as Treasurer. He said that the expenses of the year had been almost nothing, but that the members who were at Philadelphia had not all paid their annual dues, and that they were some thirty dollars behindhand. The present number of members was 69, the number enrolled at Philadelphia being 41. Invitations had been sent to all the libraries in the country to become members of the Association, and at present they were receiving quite a number of letters from them,

some containing money. On motion, the report was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Spofford, it was resolved that the annual dues for this year be two dollars for each member.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Committee on Order of Business presented its report, embodying a suggestion that the Wednesday morning session, from 11 o'clock, should be set apart for the discussion of those subjects in which the advice and co-operation of publishers were desired, including uniform title-entries for cataloguing, a uniform code of abbreviations, designation of the sizes of books, the preparation of printed slips for cataloguing use, and the best binding for libraries. The report was adopted, and the Secretary was directed to invite publishers to be present and to take part in the deliberations.

## POOLE'S INDEX REPORT.

MR. POOLE, Chairman of the Committee on the continuation of Poole's Index, then presented the fifth report of the committee, as printed in a circular which included also the rules and directions for indexing and other matter contained in the previous reports and printed in the LIBRARY JOURNAL (V. I., p. 181, 286, 324, 365), with list of periodicals to be indexed, and a supplement containing a duplicate list to be checked and returned to Mr. Poole. Some few additions and modifications had been made since the publication of the list in the JOURNAL, under the advice of librarians who had complied with the committee's request for correspondence. The fifth report was as follows:

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, }  
NEW YORK, September 4, 1877. }

The special committee appointed by the Conference of American Librarians held at Philadelphia, October 4-6, 1876, to consider and report on a plan of co-operation for issuing a new edition of Poole's "Index to Periodical Literature," with the references brought down to the present year, and incorporated with those of the edition of 1853—having already reported in favor of adopting the co-operative plan for accomplishing a work so much needed, and having recommended rules and methods for indexing,—herewith submit lists of periodicals,

the contents of which it is proposed to include in the new edition. The "New List" comprises such serials as were not indexed in the edition of 1853. The "Continued List" brings the series previously indexed down to the present year.

These lists were printed in the LIBRARY JOURNAL for June, 1877 (p. 305-369), with the request that "librarians, after examination, will furnish the committee, with such additions, corrections, and suggestions as may occur to them." The committee having been thus favored, now reprint the lists amended, and with such modifications in the abbreviations as will render them more intelligible, at first sight, to average readers. Proper names do not usually admit of intelligible abbreviations; but the words *Magazine*, *Journal*, *Quarterly*, and *Review*, which occur frequently, are represented by single letters, as *M*, *J*, *Q*, and *R*. The titles *Atlantic*, *Bentley*, *Corrhill*, *Fraser*, *Harper*, *Macmillan*, etc., are deemed to be sufficiently descriptive in themselves, without the additional abbreviation for *Monthly*, *Miscellany*, *Magazine*, etc. To the lists are added the rules and directions for indexing recommended in the second and third reports of the committee; which are followed by the essential part of other reports, the present report being their fifth.

A supplementary sheet accompanies this report, containing a duplicate impression of the lists. On the supplementary sheet the co-operating librarians are requested to check the complete sets of periodicals which their libraries contain, and such as they have access to, and to return the sheet to the committee, who will make an equitable allotment of the work of indexing. In case a library contains only a partial set of a periodical, the librarian will please designate the portion of it which he possesses. This designation may be omitted concerning the more common periodicals, of which sets are found in most libraries, as the *Edinburgh*, *Quarterly*, *North American*, *Blackwood*, *Harper*, *Atlantic*, etc. The lists and communications on the subject may be addressed to W. F. Poole, Public Library, Chicago.

JUSTIN WINNOR,  
WILLIAM F. POOLE, } Committee.  
CHARLES A. CUTTER, }

DR. HOMES stated that he had read the report as printed, and that, as a general rule, he did not consider himself competent to say very much in regard to it. But he desired to call

the attention of the Association to rule to "No person should be placed upon this work who is not thoroughly competent to catalogue books on Mr. Cutter's or the British Museum system. The work of an inexperienced person will be worse than useless." For one do not consider myself thoroughly competent to catalogue books on that plan so as to satisfy Mr. Poole or any other gentleman. I think the language there used is rather strong. Dr. Homes also called attention to the suggestion of carrying out the enterprise by co-operation of capital, brought forward at Albany.

THE PRESIDENT said that the continuation of the Index was simply a question of feasibility. Several years ago there had been an attempt made to get up a work like this, but it had failed on account of capital. He thought that, under all the circumstances of the case, the committee of the Association have taken the wisest plan and the most practical one which can be carried out. The efforts that were made then showed very conclusively that money was not forthcoming; but I think with our co-operation of labor we have a certainty of success, and that for the co-operation of capital (see the New York College Committee's suggestion, — JOURNAL, V. I., p. 434) we shall have to look to the future.

MR. PERKINS, replying to Dr. Homes, stated that it was not required that a person attempting to catalogue on Mr. Cutter's plan should be competent to do so right away; but in time he would learn. It was more as a guide which would lead him to ultimate competency.

MR. POOLE then stated his experience when first he began to catalogue, and how much labor was thrown away by him which, if he had had a guide such as this, might have been very profitable. He encountered many difficulties in the way of indexing, and doubtless there were still many difficulties to be encountered; but if he should wait until all the difficulties were removed, his work would never be published, and never would have been published. He thought it was best to go on and do the best they could and do something, and in the future they would have an opportunity to perfect it.

MR. GREEN thought that the suggestion made by the committee, that they felt it was much easier to get members of libraries to contribute work than to forward money, was hardly fair, as no opportunity had been given to the

libraries to contribute money. He suggested that the committee should have authority to accept money from those that would give money, as well as work from those that would give work.

THE PRESIDENT.—I think the committee would take it upon themselves to receive money, if it were offered, without any authority from the Association. (Laughter.)

He suggested that the delegates to London, in order to perfect some arrangement to make this co-operative indexing an international affair, be authorized to present the views of this Association in London.

MR. SPOFFORD said that, as the list was confined entirely to English and American periodicals, and as such papers as the *Revue des deux Mondes* and others of the same character were excluded, he did not see how it could become an international affair; it would perhaps be better to defer to the better judgment of all the delegates at London in this matter. At the same time, he thought it should be finally decided within what limits to confine the publications, as otherwise the work would be carried out to such boundless length, and the printing become so formidable, that no publisher could likely be found to undertake it; he therefore thought that all weeklies should be excluded from this list.

MR. CUTTER suggested that it was not intended by the committee that all in the weeklies should be indexed, but only the most important articles appearing in them. These were not so very numerous, and the committee thought they could be easily included without going beyond proper limits.

MR. PERKINS thought that it would be a misfortune to lose the valuable articles found in the weeklies, especially such articles as Dr. Schliemann's, in the London literary journals, on his recent discoveries in Greece. It must be a matter of judgment in the mind of the indexer what to include and what to omit. He thought there were comparatively few articles in the weeklies that were worthy of being indexed, and it was not the plan of the committee to index the weeklies in full.

DR. HOMES.—I should suggest several more that I think had better be left out. I find here, for instance, No. 11, *The American Naturalist*; No. 22, *The Artisan*; No. 50, *Eclectic Engineering Magazine*; No. 78, *Journal of the Franklin Institute*; No. 89, *Mechanics' Magazine*; No.

152, *American Journal of Science*; No. 153, *Bankers' Magazine*. I think periodicals of this class had better be omitted, being of an entirely scientific character. They are too exceptional to be brought into a work of this kind.

MR. GREEN stated that just such periodicals as those mentioned, which Dr. Homes would exclude, were of great interest to him, because he lived in a community composed mostly of mechanics. Technical journals were in great demand in Worcester, and he, for one, should think that periodical literature of this kind should be included in the Index.

DR. HOMES thought that there might be prepared an index having reference exclusively to such literature, which might become a great help to those who desired articles of this kind.

MR. POOLE remarked, in regard to the pecuniary responsibility of the publication: I never have understood that the Association had any responsibility in this matter. If we should run in debt in carrying out the Index, it would be entirely our affair and not that of the Association. If the thing does not pay, I am willing to stand all pecuniary responsibility in the matter. I am sure that the work can be published on the terms of the prospectus. If we can be assured of the co-operative labor of the libraries, the Association shall not be responsible for any deficit. The view expressed by Mr. Perkins is the view of the committee, that no weeklies should be indexed unless the articles be of real importance.

MR. SPOFFORD.—I simply designed to enter a caveat, in case the Association had any responsibility in this matter, against any scheme which would include such subjects as those relating to technical matters. I would therefore move that the committee which may be selected as delegates to the British Conference be empowered and instructed to present the scheme for indexing periodical literature, with accompanying circulars, to that conference, and to officially make endeavors to secure the hearty and just co-operation of British librarians, in order to make the scheme a success.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

MR. GREEN preferred that all scientific matter should be indexed, as that would be of much more service to him than general literature, because such literature was more read in the community in which he resided.

MR. EDMANDS thought that it would be best to simply index the more important of the scien-

tific articles appearing in the weekly periodicals, and that a great deal of discretion should be exercised by those having in hand the indexing. In this manner a great many articles of general interest would not be excluded. But if the rule were strictly applied that articles appearing in the weeklies should not be indexed, why then some articles of real importance would be excluded.

DR. HOMES expressed the opinion that this was primarily a literary index, and not a scientific one. He had no doubt that many scientific articles would be of great interest to certain classes of people, but the line would have to be drawn somewhere.

MR. PERKINS said that there was a printed statement of the views of the committee, which appeared to him to be the basis of the whole discussion. [Mr. Perkins then read from the report.] It appears to me that the report which I have just read has already given the proper basis on which the indexing should be made, and also shows how careful a judgment is to be exercised both in admitting and excluding. I submit that all the objections that have been made so far, judicious and careful though they be, have already been considered by whoever drafted the report.

MR. DEWEY stated that as the Association was asked simply to contribute its work to secure a new edition of Poole's Index, and as Mr. Poole said he could carry it through without any pecuniary assistance from the Association, he would therefore propose to solve the question and to end this discussion by a resolution to this effect: that the Association authorize the committee on Poole's Index, consisting of Messrs. Winsor, Poole, and Cutter, to prepare and bring out a new edition of Poole's Index in the way that may seem best to them. That, of course, relieves the Association from any pecuniary responsibility in the matter.

The resolution was adopted.

On motion, it was also resolved, as a second part of the former resolution, that the Association assumes no pecuniary responsibility in the publication of the Index, but that it promises its co-operative assistance.

#### CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE.

MR. CUTTER, chairman of the Co-operation Committee, being called upon to report, referred to the reports printed in the JOURNAL (V.I., p. 283, 322, 365, 396, 429) as embodying all the subjects that had come before the committee. The

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Secretary read several items as to library supplies, as to which the recommendations were adopted. The leading topics were deferred to later sessions.

Some inquiries having been made in regard to the sizes of the card selected, and how it was to be used, Mr. Dewey stated that nearly all the inquiries made had been answered in the report printed in the LIBRARY JOURNAL. He also stated that the action of the Association would not bind any library now using their own cards to use the ones recommended by the committee. The report was more in the nature of a guide to new libraries wishing to adopt the best size of cards in use for that purpose.

On motion, the Conference adjourned until 2 P.M.

#### SECOND SESSION.

[TUESDAY AFTERNOON.]

The meeting being called to order by the President at 2.20 P.M., the Secretary read letters from Mr. Jacob Schwartz, conveying the invitation of the Apprentices' Library Committee that members of the Association should visit the library during their stay; and from Mr. Daniel W. Fink, State Law Librarian of Rhode Island, expressing a belief that "every librarian in the United States should be a member" of the Association.

#### SLIP CATALOGUES.

The President then read the following communication from a civil engineer in Boston:

Boston, Aug. 29, 1877.

JUSTIN WINSOR, ESQ.

DEAR SIR: In view of your active labors as a librarian, as also because you are about to attend a convention of librarians, I venture to present for your inspection a notion I have had for some time on the printing of catalogues. You appreciate, it has seemed to me, the need and utility of *subject* catalogues as much as any one, to say the least; and if you will now turn to that catalogue published by the Royal Society of London (you know the one I mean), it will give me a starting point to speak from. It is just such a catalogue, but *arranged by subjects, published annually* if possible, that the present age demands. Books have multiplied and are multiplying so fast, and the progress of all sciences is so fast, that books are losing the value they once had. Before they can be printed, almost, they have become antiquated and behind the times. But in the professional and scientific literature of the day resides the well-spring of

the knowledge of the day for students; ever useful, if one may judge by the daily experience of becoming interested in this and that article of years and a century or more ago, as the case may be. Now for my plan of a catalogue.

1. Print on one side only, something like Japanese or Chinese books; that is, on thin paper, sheets folded, but *not cut* at the top, so that they will turn over like single leaves. But if desired, such a catalogue can readily be converted into a card-catalogue, by any one, without waste.

2. Print in "fat" (I believe that is the expression) or heavy type at the beginning of each title; first the leading word, indexed by authors, then a dash (—), and then the leading word of same title, if indexed by subjects. Then, by buying *two copies* of such a book, a person can make his own subject card-catalogue, as well as a card-catalogue by authors. Or he can make *either* of them with *one* copy.

3. Or stereotype the titles set up in the arrangement above described, as fast as they are set up in type; interchange the two leading words by cutting them away from the rest of the stereotype and cutting them apart, and make a temporary card-catalogue of these stereotype titles, arranged by subjects, until the book is done. Then gather them together by pages and print the catalogue *by subjects* thus formed.

You are aware, I suppose, that stereotype plates can be cut up and pasted together again, in this way, without trouble; it is daily done, down to single letters.

In this description I have supposed that author (leading word) came first in setting up the type, and subject second, merely to have something definite to describe; of course the whole arrangement may be reversed. If only such a catalogue as is described under 1 and 2 were printed each year, libraries could incorporate them into their card-catalogues, if they chose, or make of them a separate card-catalogue, incorporating the last-come with its predecessors as fast as it came along. And such a card-catalogue would be worth travelling miles to be able to consult.

Respectfully yours,

CLEMENS HEESCHEL.

#### LIBRARY LEGISLATION.

Mr. WM. F. POOLE, of Chicago, on call of the chair, then read his paper on "State Legislation in the matter of Libraries."

(See p. 7-12.)

MR. GREEN, of Worcester, then gave his experience in regard to the administration of the library which he represented, somewhat as follows. He stated that the gentleman who founded the library took great interest in having the library started on the right basis, and prescribed that the affairs of the library should be administered by a board of directors. The directors are chosen two each alternate year, so that the board is mainly a conservative one. The city government chooses the directors; and the city council makes an annual appropriation for the library, but the directors have the entire control of the appropriation after it is made. They can spend it as they please. There was a stipulation in the gift to the city, reiterated in the will of the founder, that the city shall choose a competent librarian, and that they shall erect a library building and pay all the running expenses of the library.

It seemed to him a very wise provision that the directors should have the entire control of the expenditures. He thought it well that the library should always feel the popular pulse; and the library does that by having the directors chosen by the city government. During the last year there had been a slight conflict between the directors and the city council. The directors thoroughly believe in the present management of the library, but one citizen, an old resident, having a good deal of property, set himself to work to cut the appropriation down. He succeeded in getting it down a few thousand dollars, that was all.

THE PRESIDENT.—There is in the city of Newton, Mass., a library which for some years was run as a proprietary library, deriving its income from the subscription of citizens. Within a few years that library has been turned over to the municipality, and it is now run by the city government. Perhaps Mr. Jackson can give us some notion of how it works.

MR. JACKSON.—Our experience has been a very short one, and I can only say that the city government has been very generous in the matter of appropriations.

DR. HOMES.—I think that the history of the state of New York in the matter of public libraries is certainly creditable to her, as having taken the lead in district school libraries, which, although they have failed, must have contributed largely to the success of the existing libraries in nearly every town. I think, as there are now twelve states which have some legislation on

the subject of public libraries, allowing towns to tax themselves for their support, it will be easily seen that other states should have such laws. It needs in each state only pushing—perhaps by a single individual, who should devote himself to the subject—and it could be accomplished in a single year. Some years ago I drew up a set of laws for New York which, in 1875, Senator Wellman introduced, and they passed the Senate. I was very much occupied, and did not endeavor to find any one to press them in the Assembly, and consequently they did not pass that body. Since that time I have not attempted to pursue it any further. I believe, however, that if some persons of leisure at the different capitals of the several states would take hold, they might very easily present such laws to individual members of the Senate and of the Assembly, and many persons would be found ready to defend them in the two houses and they would be readily adopted. After being adopted, in case it should be necessary, they, of course, could be modified from year to year as experience would suggest. I think a great deal might be done by individual effort in introducing and securing the passage of laws to which reference has been made.

MR. EDMANDS inquired whether any definite proposition had been made in the paper read by Mr. Poole of Chicago.

THE PRESIDENT stated that the gist of the paper, as he had understood it, was, that it was absolutely necessary that there should be some state legislation. At the same time, there should not be any recommendation made by this Association generally applicable to all the states; but each state should make a law to meet the circumstances of its own case; and there should be certain powers lodged in the municipal councils, with such checks as may be deemed necessary.

MR. EDMANDS further inquired by what means such results could be attained.

THE PRESIDENT suggested that here was a good field for some missionary work.

MR. BOWKER suggested that the President, in looking about the room for speakers on this subject, had overlooked a prominent member of the Conference who could give some special experience as to public libraries and city councils, and he therefore suggested that the President call upon the superintendent of the Boston Public Library. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT stated that he had hoped he

would not be called upon to say anything, or to express his opinion in regard to this matter. The situation in Boston was, in his opinion, a very critical one. It was agreed there, among the best citizens, that the future of the library depends upon state legislation; but whether the state will intervene by act of incorporation, so that the city council should have as little to do with it in the future as possible, he could not say. However, he looked upon the outlook as very critical.

MR. POOLE, of Chicago, inquired of the President whether, in his opinion, the Ohio Law would not meet all the wishes of the friends of the Public Library in Boston; or whether he would recommend that all connection with the city council be cut off, so that the city council should have nothing to say in the matter of money appropriated for its use.

THE PRESIDENT stated that he thought a law might be drafted under which the annual tax—levy of the city should contain provisions for the support of the library, but which would prevent any retrograde movement.

MR. BOWKER thought that no one who had any library experience, or who had any experience in social enterprises, could take issue with what Mr. Poole had stated in his paper, that in order to have successful work in matters relating to libraries, it should grow up from and become a part of the community. And yet it seemed to come properly within the province of an association of this kind, that it should act in an advisory capacity, and particularly should use the experience which it had to prevent any mistakes that would retard the development of a library. He therefore suggested that it might be well, through a committee, to make suggestions or recommendations—whatever you will call them—in the case of states proposing to put library laws on their statute-books, and he submitted that a committee of five should be appointed who shall take the work in hand.

MR. EDMANDS.—That is about what I had in view. But it seems to me that there should be an additional clause—namely, the missionary idea which the Chairman suggested. It seems that this paper read by Mr. Poole, valuable as it is, will lead to very small results unless it is followed up by some action on the part of this Association, or on the part of somebody. And if this committee can be appointed with perhaps large power, the same results can be accomplished and great good will be achieved.



On motion of Mr. Bowker, it was resolved that a Committee of five, of which the President and the author of the paper should be members, be appointed to consider suggestions, and to propose recommendations or legal provisions in regard to the establishment and management of public libraries.

THE PRESIDENT accordingly named as the committee Mr. Winsor, Mr. Poole, Mr. Bowker, Dr. Holmes, and Mr. Edmonds.

MR. VINTON inquired whether it would not be well if a commissioner were appointed to represent state library interests.

THE PRESIDENT thought it was not quite feasible. The appointment by the state government of a commissioner to represent the interests of libraries would scarcely be considered with favor.

MR. SPOFFORD thought that it would be the best way to let the people govern their own affairs; and that a commissioner could not be expected to go around the whole state to make suggestions as to what was best to be done with a library in a particular locality. The best law for libraries is the local option law.

#### THE TELEPHONE.

THE PRESIDENT then stated that in Boston they had recently connected the branches of the Boston Public Library with the Central Library by means of the telephone. He then explained to the Convention the details of the telephone; its cost and expenses; how remarkably simple it was, and of what great use it would be to libraries having branches in different parts of the city.

#### RESOURCES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

MRS. HEWINS then inquired whether the income derived from the dog-tax was applied to the support of public libraries in any other state besides Massachusetts?

THE PRESIDENT stated that in Massachusetts generally it was applied to public libraries, but not in Boston.

MR. POOLE inquired whether any one knew if the income derived from police fines was applied in any state for the support of public libraries?

THE PRESIDENT remarked that receipts from library fines and sale of catalogues are not applied to the support of the libraries, certainly

not in Boston. Whatever they received in the shape of income from fines and the sale of catalogues goes to the sinking fund.

#### AUTOMATIC BOOK DELIVERY.

THE PRESIDENT then explained to the Conference a device for the automatic delivery of books which he had planned for use in the new Harvard building (six stories high). At the delivery desk there would be a key-board showing the digits to be combined into the various shelf-numbers. As the number of the book wanted was struck by combination, it would appear by an automatic connection on the floor where the book was to be found. The attendant there stationed would take it from the shelf and place it in a box attached to an endless belt, whence it was tipped out at the other end into a cushioned receptacle close by the delivery desk, thus saving time, running, and expense.

#### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.

MR. SPOFFORD spoke upon special collections, suggesting how valuable it was to keep scrap-books on special topics. The topics could be as varied as human affairs; for instance, the Presidential Electoral Commission would be a good subject, and in the state of New York such a collection of all the papers and accounts relating to the Cardiff Giant would be quite interesting; and if proper attention was given to this subject, people in general, not merely librarians, might be interested and a proper allotment of the subjects might be entrusted to them. He thought the subject was worthy of consideration, as any librarian could easily try the experiment.

THE PRESIDENT.—It has long been the custom in the Boston Public Library to have such scrap-books on peculiar topics. By arrangement with the printers, the play-bills are all saved, and at the end of a theatrical season they are bound and stowed away.

DR. HOLMES stated that he had a collection of Centennial histories which were printed during the year 1876, and also all the accounts which were in form of newspapers. These he had cut up into octavo pages, and he thought in that shape they would stand a better chance of preservation.

#### FIRES—THE REPAIR OF BOOKS.

MR. POOLE.—Mr. Edmonds, of Philadelphia,



has had an experience that might be of great interest to most of this Convention. He has just passed through a fire, and we would like to know what he has done in regard to the books that were injured or partially destroyed.

MR. EDMANDS then stated in what kind of a building the Philadelphia Mercantile Library was situated. The building had not been built originally for library purposes. He stated the size of the rooms, and explained their liability to be injured by water. The fire was in a building adjoining, and one side of one of the rooms was very much exposed, so that a large amount of water was thrown in. The books upon that side of the building were considerably injured. Some of them were but slightly damaged by water, but very many were thoroughly soaked. Various processes were suggested to preserve as much as possible the leaves as well as the binding; one method was to place them in a large oven, so as to dry them rapidly. We made one or two experiments in this way, and placed the books in the oven loosely, in some instances tying them, by passing a string around them, so as to prevent their warping. But 50 of these dried so rapidly upon the outside as to completely tear the binding apart. The method which we finally adopted was to erect frames upon which wires were stretched. The frames were made of scantling 3 x 4 or 5, and the wire stretched at the distance of 8 or 10 inches apart vertically, and 4 or 5 inches apart horizontally. Then we placed the books lightly on the frame so that the leaves would be apart. Fortunately, the room in which we dried our books in this way was provided with a heating apparatus, so that the temperature of the room could be raised considerably. We found that the slow process of drying was much more advantageous. The books suffered much less from this exposure to water and to the process of drying than we had expected. I have no doubt but that the method which we adopted has saved us hundreds, probably thousands, of dollars over what would have been saved if the books had been placed in an oven. We found the books suffered very unequally. Books that were printed upon soft paper would be thoroughly wet through, while the books next to them, printed upon thick paper and with solid binding, would be scarcely damaged at all. The thick leaves and finer bindings suffered but very little from the wetting to which they were exposed.

Many of the books received their greatest

injury in the stains from the water. Many valuable books were wet partially through, so that the books will always bear the marks of the stain. It was advised that we take those books apart and wash them thoroughly, and then put them in a heated press and dry them. My own observation is, that in respect to very costly books this is the only course that is feasible for restoring them or preserving them in any respectable condition if they were taken apart immediately, and if the leaves were not thoroughly soaked through, to wash them entirely and then put them into a press and dry them, the water stains would be nearly removed. The books which we have preserved are very many of them injured permanently by water; still they retain their legibility, and for certain uses in the library they answer the same purpose they did before.

In regard to the damage done to the books, the amount of the insurance was fixed by referees. The number of volumes damaged was 55,000, more or less. The assessed damage upon those books was \$42,000, and this was not perhaps as large a sum as would be required to replace the books. The library, in one view of the case, will be as well off as before the fire. The particular point I wish to call attention to is the treatment of the books to restore them to their former condition. It may be found, perhaps, that some of the books will require re-binding; it is likely that, as they are handled, it will be found that the glue has been destroyed to such an extent as to render it expedient to have them re-bound. Let me add, however, that the number of books that require re-binding, so far as we can find out now, is much less than I supposed.

#### THE SPREAD OF DISEASE THROUGH BOOKS.

THE PRESIDENT.—I would like to inquire if the managers of libraries have had any experience in the spread of disease or the introduction of disease by the circulation of their books, whether, in times of scarlet fever pervading the community, they had thought it necessary to prevent the spread of disease by the books. In Boston they had never prevented the books from going out, but when they knew that a book was returned from a place where the disease prevailed they had the book fumigated.

MR. EVANS.—Whenever the fact has been brought to my knowledge, I have always refused to accept the books unless accompanied

by a physician's certificate that there was no disease in the house.

THE PRESIDENT stated that during the time of the prevalence of the small-pox in Boston, no one in the employ of the library had contracted the disease from the handling of the books coming back.

MR. LANGWORTHY stated that he had made inquiry of several physicians, who had spoken of scarlet fever as being an epidemic which might be diffused in the circulation of books. In pressing them to specify particular cases, they had invariably not been able to specify any. He thought that it was simply a general impression and nothing more; though perhaps in cases of small-pox there might be danger; but in other diseases he thought there was hardly any danger at all.

MR. EDMANIS thought that in times when small-pox was prevalent, there was much less danger from the diffusion of the disease by the circulation of the books than from the handling of so much fractional currency received as fines, and that the assistants who were taking this money were in great risk of taking the disease. However, no person connected with the library took the disease at all while it was prevailing in Philadelphia.

#### RESTORATION OF BOOKS.

THE PRESIDENT then stated that in the case of old and rare books which had become injured by time, missing pages of text or illustration could be replaced by heliotyping from duplicate copies of the same edition. He called upon Mr. Brevoort, of the Astor Library, to give his experience in regard to restoring pages torn or otherwise damaged.

MR. BREVOORT stated that in the Astor Library there was very little occasion to restore old and rare books, because they were very carefully handled; but that in his own library he had had occasion to repair such defective copies. In order to restore books successfully, I have found that the books must be sent to the British Museum. The art is not known in this country. The process is rather expensive.

The restoration of valuable books has been carried to great perfection in England and France. Harris used to make fac-simile leaves on the same, or nearly the same, paper as the original, which to even close observers were hardly distinguishable. When margins are deficient, they are made up of old paper fitted into

the damaged edges and the text is then added in fac-simile. A class of such copyists work at the British Museum, but at present they chiefly work at restoring margins, for whole leaves or maps are better copied by the heliotype process on old paper. Sometimes the very paper of the time and bearing the same water-mark can be found and thus used.

For completing some works, such as De Bry's voyages, leaves from a duplicate copy have to be split by pasting fine muslin on each side of them, when, by careful manipulation, the thinnest paper, provided it is hand-made, can be separated into two sheets. Bank of England notes have been thus split.

When a manuscript or leaf of a printed book is in fragments, these may be placed between sheets of gold-beater's skin. A certain French lady is very expert at this kind of work. Gold-beater's skin is used also for repairing torn leaves.

Grease and oil spots may be entirely removed, if they are not of very old date, by placing meerschaum, which is a carbonate of magnesia, or magnesia only, on both sides of the stain, backed by paper, and pressing the whole with a hot iron, leaving it afterwards under a slight pressure overnight.

Ink-spots, if fresh and composed of gallate of iron, are easily removed by the use of oxalic acid in solution, the paper to be well washed with a sponge and water afterwards. Care must be taken, as this acid and its salts are very poisonous.

In repairing old or damaged bindings, the skill of a good binder must be trusted. I cannot dwell on this now, but advise all large libraries to consult Bonnardot, "*Art de restaurer les estampes et les livres*" and "*Réparation des vieilles reliures*," both Paris, 1858, 12mo.

MR. VINTON said there was a gentleman in the city from which he came, purely an amateur, who restored a partially damaged copy of an old history of New Jersey which he prized very much. He went to work by cutting off the margin and mounting the page so that it should have a new and fresh margin, making fac-similes in ink from another book, in case any portion was lost. In this way he restored the whole title-page, and he has succeeded in making a beautiful copy for himself, so that he possesses a true copy of that very book, which would otherwise have cost him about \$200. But his ingenuity has gone farther

than that. He found that many engravings had been lost out of the body of the book, and he has succeeded in copying those with his pen so well that it is impossible to determine when the restoration is complete and when it is partial. This case appears to me very singular, and perhaps surpassing even the art of the gentleman employed in the British Museum.

THE PRESIDENT stated that he had seen specimens of Mr. Harris's work, as to which it was very difficult to say whether it was a restoration or not.

The Association then resumed the consideration of the several subjects brought forward in the reports of the Co-operation Committee, the Secretary reading the paragraphs as they came up for discussion.

#### ACCESSIONS-CATALOGUE.

MR. EDMANDS thought, as to the proposed accessions-catalogue, that, instead of thirty lines, it would be better to make the lines on a page either a third or a fourth of a hundred, in order to facilitate the finding of any particular number. The shelf-catalogues which he had been using are arranged with twenty-five lines to the page, and he found that it facilitated very much the finding of particular numbers on the page, as it was very easy to divide a page that was a fraction of a hundred.

MR. DEWEY thought if it were one half of a hundred, or fifty lines, the page would be too long, and if it were one quarter of a hundred, or twenty-five lines, it would be too short. The question of binding the different sizes is also considered in the report.

THE PRESIDENT stated that the practice at the Boston Public Library was not to bind the catalogues until the volume was completed.

After some further remarks by Mr. Dewey, Mr. Poole stated that he had been using the same form of accessions-catalogues for twenty years, and that he did not see any improvement he could make in it. He had no objection to the plan which was recommended here, but he did not propose to change his plan. He recognized the authority of the Co-operation Committee, but he could not see why he should change his accessions-catalogue. He found that his shelf-list needed renewing every little while, while his accessions-catalogue would stand unchanged and could be referred to a hundred years hence. His shelf lists were exceedingly brief. His accessions-catalogue, as it stood

now, gave every information that he could desire: told him when the book was received, from whom it was received, and all other facts of any importance relating to the book. A great many times erasures were made on the shelf-list, but the accessions-catalogue was a true record, and he could swear by it. He could not dispense with his accessions-catalogue. However, he had no doubt that this was a most excellent plan.

MR. EVANS having called attention to the necessity of changing the shelf-number, in case the first location of a book was changed, the President stated that in the Public Library of Boston there was no such thing as a book changing its location. The shelf-number was immutable.

MR. DEWEY then explained the plan more fully, giving many illustrations how the proposed accessions-catalogue could be used much more advantageously than the old style; the new accessions-catalogue would do away with a great deal of cross-referencing.

MR. FLETCHER asked whether the new accessions-catalogue would give pamphlets separately.

THE PRESIDENT was not aware that pamphlets would need a separate catalogue.

In answer to a query as to what a pamphlet really was, the President stated he thought pamphlets passed out of pamphlet condition and into books simply by being bound.

MR. DEWEY suggested that the accessions-catalogue might be used as a means of finding out the number of books in the library, and when new additions were made.

MR. POOLE said he never heard of such a case, and he did not see how that could be done very well.

MR. PERKINS stated that that plan was pursued in the Mercantile Library in New York, and that it made the number of volumes in the library look much larger than it really was. He said, further, that although the report of the committee covered very fully the whole subject, there were such conflicting opinions in regard to the recommendations of the committee that he thought it would be better to recommit the whole subject to the committee, and to let them report through the columns of the LIBRARY JOURNAL. Then the Association will be in a much better position to discuss it.

MR. EDMANDS suggested that the committee

also consider the point he had called attention to—namely, to print the catalogue so as to get twenty-five lines or fifty lines on a page; in other words, to make the lines on a page a fraction of a hundred.

The motion that the whole matter of accessions cataloguing, in connection with shelf-lists, be recommitted to the Co-operation Committee for further consideration and report was unanimously carried.

The Conference then adjourned until Wednesday morning.

### THIRD SESSION.

[WEDNESDAY MORNING.]

The meeting was called to order by the President at 10.20 A.M.

#### DISCOUNTS ON BOOK PURCHASES.

MR. POOLE, of the Committee on Discounts, stated that the committee had really no report to make, as they had not conferred with publishers to any extent. He would say, however, with regard to the "twenty per cent rule," that this rule had been substantially abolished. The committee had not been able to confer with the publishers, for the reason that the publishers had not had their convention. He stated also that, in consequence of the twenty per cent rule being set aside, books can now be bought as freely and at as low cost as ever they could.

He then went on to relate his experience at Chicago. He had passed around some slips stating the conditions under which he would receive booksellers' proposals. Some of the booksellers had offered to sell to libraries at 33 per cent discount; another firm had offered to sell at 36 per cent, and one firm offered to furnish books to libraries as low as 38½ per cent. He found that booksellers desired very much to form connection with libraries, and it must pay them somehow. He never saw so much competition to get the trade of libraries as during the last year. Dealers desired to get the library trade, so that if any person, becoming interested in a particular book, desired to purchase it, he would go straight to the bookseller who had the contract to furnish the library with books. He also took good care to give the name of the dealer that furnished the books to the library.

Recently he made a contract for the present year and had had similar results, except that instead of getting the books at 38½ per cent discount, he had got only 37½ per cent. At any

rate, there need be no fear about getting books as cheap as ever. The twenty per cent rule has gone out of existence, and it will never be renewed. I believe the action of this Convention last year settled that matter.

MR. PERKINS stated that an intelligent publisher told him that Mr. Poole had had his own will in the matter and had got it through all alone, and not at all the Convention. (Laughter.)

#### DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

MR. SPOFFORD, on call of the President, spoke of the distribution of public documents: I have no plan to present, Mr. President, but can only outline the present disgraceful condition—if I may be allowed to use so strong a term—of the laws for the distribution of publications of the Government of the United States. The statutes require the Secretary of the Interior, who is charged by the law of 1859 with the custody of all the public documents, to distribute them to public libraries in the country—on the recommendation and nomination of the members of Congress—one copy to some library in each Congressional district, with certain restrictions. That works badly, because there is no continuity of supplies for the libraries. These recommendations, depending on Congressmen coming at different times from different parts of a district, may be shifted about, and the result not unfrequently is that a library which gets books from one Congress for two years may not get them the next year. The chances of getting them permanently are wholly dependent on accident or the views of the Congressman from the district in which the library is located. The system of the distribution of public documents demands amendment, in the first place, at that point, so that the caprice of the members of Congress for the time being shall not dictate what libraries shall receive the documents.

In the next place, as you are aware, there is an enormous waste of public money and an utterly unreasonable, unjust, and ineffective distribution of the documents themselves. They go, in the majority of cases, not to libraries, not to scholars, not to professional men, but to mere politicians, to the hands of men whom the Congressmen happen to know best in their respective districts.

And perhaps, again, they are not distributed at all. There are Congressmen who sell all or nearly all the documents at their disposal to

second-hand dealers. Books costing the government \$15 or \$20 are often sold for \$3 to second-hand dealers all over the country, but mainly in Washington and New York. This squandering of the public money should be stopped. About 100,000 volumes of reports, such as the agricultural reports, for instance, are annually manufactured and distributed in such a way as to cost the tax-payers and the Treasury a maximum of money with a minimum of resulting benefit to the country. There is occasionally a discussion of the subject in the newspapers, and a few Congressmen are impressed with the magnitude of the abuse and the necessity of amending the present laws. But they are only a few. It would be a very valuable entering wedge if a combined attack were made upon the wasteful distribution, and if this Association would take some action in the matter.

There are various means proposed by which a better system might be put into operation. I think the best would be the system prevailing in Great Britain. There a certain number of the public documents and of the publications of the national legislature is furnished to the members of the legislative body for their official use; and that number is strictly limited. The documents are generally unbound, though some of them might very well be put in a permanent form, and then be deposited in the libraries established in different localities. In Parliament the system is to sell all public documents through the public printers and their agents, so that if you send to London for any documents, you may get any one for the mere cost of printing and perhaps a slight additional percentage.

There is a law in this country, that where a person orders a number of any particular documents in advance, he can get them at the cost price, with ten per cent added. That of course works well enough in the case of a bookseller, but any one desiring only a single copy cannot avail himself of the provision at all. If the system of sale at cost price were once established, I think there would be a large demand springing up all over the country from those who want books and can use them, and the government would be saved a vast amount of money that is now thrown away.

There is a third consideration, which involves the distribution, not of the regular government documents, but of the great mass of more costly and valuable reports issued by the different departments and bureaus of the government. There are issued in the Interior Department

various expensive reports—for instance, two geological surveys of the territories, with accompanying scientific illustrations and charts, in quarto, which are still in progress. The Engineers' Bureau of the Army prints a multitude of valuable scientific and technical monographs. Now there should be some system devised, by which the libraries of the country should get these bureau and office reports, as well as the regular government documents, like the agricultural reports, which are manufactured in much larger quantities. These bureau reports are not regularly distributed, nor is there any legally prescribed system by which libraries can get them. Some libraries get them through persons familiar with the different departments, but it is altogether dependent on personal caprice. This system should be amended.

THE PRESIDENT inquired of Mr. Spofford how this had best be brought about, whether the remedy should come from Congress or from the concerted action of the departments.

MR. SPOFFORD stated that he had no suggestions to make in that regard; that he should prefer to listen to the views of other gentlemen, but that there might be a committee appointed who should take charge of the subject.

MR. POOLE. I think there is another point which the committee might consider. How can the principal libraries of the country receive another kind of public document—that is, the subject-catalogue of the Library of Congress? We can get nearly all the catalogues of the leading libraries in the country, but the catalogue of the Library of Congress we cannot get.

MR. SPOFFORD stated that, on account of the great cost of the work, the Library Committee had deemed it to be an improper use of the public money to give copies of the subject-catalogue away. The committee had shown sufficient abnegation in not voting themselves a copy. No one can get them except by paying for them. I should add, however, that I was empowered to exchange them for anything I could get for the library fairly equivalent to them. Some libraries have bought them. All the other catalogues of the library have been distributed gratuitously to the principal libraries.

MR. VINTON had found considerable difficulty in finding out what was published at Washington, and what was of real interest. He thought it would be a good plan to have a list prepared

stating what publications were issued at Washington.

DR. HOMES stated that there is a law now in existence which requires that copies of public documents should be sent to the state libraries, and that they do receive them. The state libraries, however, are, all but three or four of them, situated in capitals of less than 50,000 inhabitants, and the books are consequently not so useful as they would be in larger cities. He thought that the law might be modified so as to include other libraries besides the state libraries, and that the committee might look into it.

MR. GREEN thought if some centrally located library should be designated in a given district, to which could be sent several copies of all public documents, and such library could distribute them to smaller ones, keeping an index of what documents each one received, that thus a complete set would be obtained, instead of the broken sets we now so often come across. Several members of Congress whom he had approached on the subject had expressed their willingness to have the documents distributed in a proper way, and they had been very anxious to have some plan suggested by which this could be best accomplished.

MR. TYLER stated that in Baltimore there had been seen, some years ago, as many as fifty two-horse wagons containing public documents which were being carted to paper mills, and that as many as nine sets of a particular report had been bought for old paper.

Eleven o'clock having arrived, the special order of the day was taken up.

#### UNIFORM TITLE-ENTRIES.

The Secretary read *seriatim* from the LIBRARY JOURNAL (V. I., p. 170) the proposed rules for co-operative cataloguing, with the appended explanations, which were then severally discussed by the meeting. He stated that the rules were first drafted after consultation, then condensed, then submitted to librarians in different parts of the country, and finally put in shape as submitted in the JOURNAL.

As to exact transcription of the title-page, MR. EDMANDS inquired whether it would not be the best rule to have some mark in all cases to indicate what has been omitted, especially in biographical works, in order to know whether the title is strictly copied or not. He thought some more special marks than the three dots would greatly facilitate the matter.

MR. DEWEY stated that, after having fully considered the subject, the committee had adopted the three dots as being the best suited for the purpose.

MR. SPOFFORD inquired whether this rule is absolute in denying the use of capitals for substantives in the German and cognate languages, and was referred by Mr. Dewey to the explanation printed with the rule.

MR. BOWKER thought the system ought to designate expressly in some way whether the entry is a full transcript or an abridgment of the title.

MR. SPOFFORD thought the rule with the explanatory note was all that could be desired in that regard.

MR. CUTTER stated, in regard to the three dots, that after having used them very carefully for many years in a library under his charge, where he had found it considerable trouble to count the omissions, as soon as he was in a position in another library to omit them he had disregarded them entirely, and he did not remember ever finding any use for them.

MR. VINTON thought the three dots would be of interest mainly in the case of old books, as it was the tendency to make the titles of modern books as short as possible, so that no dots would be needed.

MR. PERKINS inquired whether the rule for using capitals applied to any language except English.

MR. DEWEY thought that was the design.

MR. SPOFFORD thought this Association ought to go as far as the French rule, which does not even capitalize such words as the names for months and days. He would therefore move to strike from the rule the word *adjectives*, or adjective form of proper names, leaving only the proper names themselves.

MR. EDMANDS stated, in regard to capitalizing German nouns, that even now in Germany it was quite common to print names without capitals.

THE PRESIDENT stated that he had not observed it.

MR. CUTTER thought it was not very common, but that it was done. He did not like the French style for the English language, but said he could give no reason for it.

MR. PERKINS thought, in regard to German writers omitting capitals, that this was simply a peculiarity of the particular writer, and was



very much like everything else in German orthography. There was far less uniformity among the Germans than here, and the Germans themselves were in great tribulation in regard to it. The Orthographical Conference at Berlin adopted certain rules, but it was in general very conservative. It introduced a few changes; it did not disturb the question of capitals, but left it to the prevailing usage. Some German writers use capitals only at the beginning of sentences, and some only at the beginning of paragraphs.

MR. POOLE.—I wish to say that I do not propose to be bound by anything that this Association may do in this matter. I do not regard it as an essential matter; it is simply a matter of taste. The Association ought not to prescribe any special rule in this matter, no more than it ought to say what kind of a necktie a man shall wear. I would rather the Association should not commit itself to any particular style. I propose to stick to the old English system, and to use it until we get ready to write a small "I" for the personal pronoun. The English system is, that in the title of a book the substantive should have a capital letter. I should not recognize the title of a book in any other style.

MR. GREEN.—I hope this Association will express its opinion about this matter. It is important that some authorized body capable of making a decision should point out to people in what direction good taste tends, in what direction the best usage in regard to capitalizing tends—whether we all agree at present as to the use of capitals or not in titles of books. A cultivated editor told me once that the omission of capitals was largely due to laziness. It is easier not to write capitals, and that is one of the greatest reasons why we should not use capitals. The heads of libraries cannot look over every piece of cataloguing and say whether it is right or wrong. We want a rule that can be easily followed. It does seem to me that a judicious use of capitals would be of great advantage, if you could have first-class men to superintend their use; but if you cannot do that, it would be much safer to dispense with the use of capitals altogether. It is a matter which should be thoroughly digested, and therefore I hope that it will be referred back to the Co-operation Committee with power to act.

MR. VINTON thought that if the Association

followed Mr. Poole's suggestion, it would resolve itself again into elements. That was not the purpose of the Association. He believed in taking some decided action in regard to this matter of the use of capitals. He himself believed in dispensing with them altogether. The catalogue of the Library of Congress, he held, was a model for all libraries to follow. Reading a book with a generous profusion of capitals reminded him very much of riding over a rough cobble-stone road, while reading a book without capitals was like riding on a smooth macadamized road. The catalogue of the Library of Congress was a model because it contained no typographical offensiveness.

MR. DEWEY suggested that as the work of the committee should only be looked upon as a recommendation, and as, whatever action the Association might take in this matter, it would still be in the nature of a recommendation, therefore he did not see why Mr. Poole should be so decided in his opinion. If Mr. Poole occupied the same position as he (Mr. Dewey) did, receiving letters every day making inquiries in regard to just this very thing, Mr. Poole would wish very much that the Association would take some decided action in this matter, so that replies could be made to those inquiries that would carry with them some authority.

MR. CUTLER thought that, as the publishers might submit to the librarians titles for their approval, it would be necessary to take some action. Personally he would not like to be bound by the action of the Association. To a person accustomed to the use of capitals, it would seem a little ludicrous to have British spelled with a small "b," and American with a small "a." He also inquired if, in the rejection of all capitals except in proper names, the names of noted events, such as the French Revolution or our late Civil War, should drop their capital form. He thought it would be necessary to define proper names somewhat more than had been done.

MR. STODOLSKY.—I suppose I am responsible for introducing in this country into a catalogue, for the first time, the rejection of capital letters for German nouns. In that matter I acted with proper deliberation, and experience has only confirmed me in my position then taken. I looked back to the origin of the German language, and I found that in the books printed in the sixteenth century there was no such thing



known as a capital being applied to the German nouns. Therefore, in rejecting capital letters in the catalogue of the Library of Congress, I only attempted restoration and not innovation. In this matter I can see that it is perhaps a matter of fashion; and yet it would be desirable to preach a uniformity of style which shall relieve us of an arbitrary and impossible standard, which shall give to the page a superior beauty, elegance, and uniformity. All these advantages will be secured by uniform typography.

After considerable discussion as to how and how far the Association should act, it was decided that the meeting should express its opinion on mooted points by a show of hands, and it was voted, on motions of Mr. Bowker and Mr. Green, "that at the close of the votes of opinion by this Association, the subject of uniform title-entries, including abbreviations, be referred to a special committee of five, with power to digest a code which shall finally be referred through the *JOURNAL*, and shall stand as the recommendation of this Association until otherwise ordered, and that this committee shall take means also to call the attention of publishers and other makers of catalogues to this code."

Meanwhile Mr. Spofford's motion in the direction of restricting capitalizing was voted down on a show of hands.

The second rule brought up a discussion as to variations in dates between the imprint year, the year of copyright, and the year of actual publication. It was generally considered that the provision was sufficient. Mr. Edmands suggested that the words "of actual publication" be added after "the year." A motion of Mr. Cutter, to put the publisher's name in Roman instead of italic, was approved. A motion of Dr. Homes, to insert the words "in English" after "the place of publication," failed of approval. After these modifications, the second rule was approved.

The third and fourth rules were approved. As to the fifth rule, directing how to enter names, the President inquired if it would require "Columbus" to be entered as "Columbo." Mr. Dewey thought that was the rule.

MR. EDMANDS thought a rule might be devised which would not require so much cross-reference as this does. Many persons using a catalogue like this suggested by the committee would be apt to get confused and not be able to find the book desired. He thought the rule

needed modification. He called attention to the name "de Staël," for which many people would look under the prefix "de." He thought exceptions ought to be made in names so well known.

MR. SPOFFORD thought if exceptions of that kind were made there would be no end of trouble. A simple cross-reference he thought would settle the difficulty. The adoption of any rule which violates a principle is in itself strictly objectionable.

MR. PERKINS desired to move an addition to the rule, that where an author was known by more than one name, cross-references should be used.

MR. BOWKER inquired what should be done in regard to lady writers who had been married more than once.

MR. FOSTER suggested that no lady who had published a book should afterward marry.

MR. SPOFFORD moved to amend by adding, "such names to be entered always under the name last borne by the author."

MR. BOWKER suggested that this was scarcely in accordance with the decision arrived at in regard to family names and the titles of nobility, and asked what would be the objection to entering all books under the name first borne. It would be desirable that under some one heading the names should be grouped, and as far as possible they should be continued under that same heading.

THE PRESIDENT.—The question before us is then upon amending the rule by the following addition: "Where an author is known by more than one name, cross-references should be inserted from such names not used to that used, which shall be the last borne by the author."

An amendment to substitute "the name first borne" was lost.

MR. SPOFFORD inquired whether the rule would work well in regard to Mrs. Norton's last name. He thought not one person in a hundred would recognize her by the name she bore only a few months.

It was then suggested to obviate the difficulty by making the last clause read, "the name last borne by the author on the title of any publication."

On the suggestion of Mr. Perkins, all the amendments were withdrawn. He then said, "I wish to have added to the rule these words: 'Where an author has been known by more than one name, cross-references should be in-

serted from such names not used as headings to that used."

The rule, as thus amended, was approved, and it was further voted that the question of the entry of the names of married women be referred to the special committee.

The sixth and seventh rules were approved.

THE PRESIDENT then announced as the Special Committee on Uniform Title-entries, etc., Messrs. Cutter, Spofford, Green, Dyer, and Jones.

THE PRESIDENT then read cordial invitations from John Taylor Johnston, president, and Robert Hoe, Jr., of the trustees, of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, enclosing tickets, that the members of the Association should visit the museum individually at their convenience. On motion, the invitation was accepted, and the Committee on Order of Business was directed to draft a suitable acknowledgment.

On motion, the Conference then adjourned until 2 P.M.

#### FOURTH SESSION.

[WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.]

The meeting was called to order by the President at 2.30 P.M.

#### EXCHANGE OF DUPLICATES.

DR. HOMES, in moving for a committee on exchange of duplicates, stated that some years ago Mr. Poole suggested that all such duplicate books and pamphlets be sold at auction, but he thought a much better plan would be to exchange them. He thought a running account might be kept between several libraries of what books were exchanged, and in that way they might minister to their mutual needs.

Dr. Homes' motion, as amended, "that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to devise, after correspondence, a plan for effecting exchanges of duplicate books and pamphlets between libraries, and to report through the columns of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*," was adopted.

Dr. Homes then exhibited a book-brace to the Convention which he said was not patented, and which he had found very serviceable. It consisted of a thin board of a height nearly that between shelves, with the attachment of a bent piece of brass at the top, arranged as a spring to hold the board upright as it is pushed in between shelves.

#### LIBRARY BUILDINGS.

MR. POOLE then took up the subject set

apart for the afternoon—plans for library buildings. He took ground at the outset against erecting galleries in libraries, and said that the ceiling in any room where books are kept should not be more than sixteen feet high. He had found generally where galleries were erected that the heat in the upper galleries was insufferable—in which no books could live. A friend of his noticed, while passing through the galleries of the Cincinnati Public Library, the great heat at the top of the galleries, and in order to test it he purchased a thermometer and found the temperature to register in the upper gallery as high as 142° F., while below, on the ground floor, it was very comfortable.

He then explained at length, by means of plans, how library buildings should not be constructed, and how he would have them constructed. He stated that he referred principally to small towns, where they had plenty of room and could spread out their building; of course in large cities, where they were crowded for space, he supposed galleries were necessary so as to get light from the top.

THE PRESIDENT then made some drawings on a blackboard, and explained the construction of a model library building made chiefly of iron, with iron flooring and iron framework for the shelves. The Conference evinced much interest in the President's remarks, and the many inquiries that were made of him in regard to it showed that the Conference desired the fullest explanations possible on the subject, which the President imparted to the utmost extent. It is to be regretted that the impossibility of presenting the diagrams preclude a satisfactory report of this portion of the Conference.

MR. VINTON inquired whether there would be light enough on the lower floor to read the titles of books where the floors above were of iron grating.

THE PRESIDENT said that they did not need to read the titles, but simply to look at the numbers, and that these were generally large enough to be easily recognized.

MR. LANGWORTHY explained the construction of his library building (Congregational Library, Boston). He believed in leaving a small space between the walls and the shelving, so that there could be a free circulation of air.

THE PRESIDENT stated that some years ago a committee from Springfield called upon him and wished to be shown Bates Hall, as they

were desirous of making their library building like that hall. I told them that they should avoid everything that was there; and I gave them, as well as I could, my best ideas for the construction of a suitable building. I learned afterwards that their building was in the old conventional style; and some time afterwards heard the opinion expressed that they had made a great mistake in adopting their present style of building. The great difficulty about the construction of all library buildings is the fact that it is not determined beforehand. The people do not clearly understand what sort of a library they are going to have. I think there is no doubt that the conventional form is best where the people are to have access to the books. But in these modern days of public libraries, where great masses assemble, where they cannot be allowed to have access to the books, the books should be kept back of the delivery counter.

THE PRESIDENT announced as the Committee on the Exchange of Duplicates, Dr. Homes, Mr. Edmonds, and a gentleman who was not present, but who had been his associate for many years—Mr. Knapp, of Boston.

MR. CUTLER, as chairman of the Committee on Title-entries, desired the sense of the meeting on a motion which he presented, that English noblemen be entered under their titles instead of under the family name. It is true that a few noblemen acquired all their fame before they became titled; in the majority of cases, authors are better known by their titles. The motion failed of approval.

THE SECRETARY read a cordial letter of regret from Mr. Vickers, of Cincinnati, who added: "Anything the Association may want the Cincinnati Library to do, will be done if I can effect it." A letter of regret was also received from Prof. Robinson, of Rochester, who was detained at home by the work of removing his library.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

MR. VAN NAME, as chairman of the Committee on nominating the Executive Board, reported the following names: Mr. Winsor, Mr. Spofford, Mr. Poole, Dr. Homes, and Mr. Dewey.

On motion, the gentlemen named by the committee were elected.

MR. CUTLER, for the Committee to devise plans for Representation at the English Conference, offered the following resolution: "that

the Executive Board, with such persons as they may add to their number, be the representatives of the Association at the English Library Conference, and be empowered to act for the Association," which was adopted.

In reference to the invitation to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:

"Whereas, The directors of the Metropolitan Museum of Art have extended to the members of the American Library Association an invitation to inspect the collection exhibited by them,

"Resolved, That this Association express to the president and directors of the Metropolitan Museum of Art their cordial acknowledgments for the courtesies thus extended."

#### PRINTED TITLE-SLIPS.

THE PRESIDENT brought up the next subject, that of printed slips for titles. He explained that it was intended to devise some plan of affording libraries and purchasers of books a ready means of cataloguing the book, by having the work already done for them. He then described his suggestion for a publishers' slip, which would be of commercial-note size, divided into four parts, each the size of the uniform catalogue card, and containing the title under the several entries which were desirable. He thought if the publishers could be enlisted in the work, much good would result from it. Then the cataloguing would become uniform in the principal libraries. He had made the offer to several publishers, but thus far he had not got it accepted by any.

MR. EDMANDS inquired whether it was expected that the publisher would make the subject-entries.

THE PRESIDENT.—It is expected that the publishers do it, or that it be done by some large library.

MR. EDMANDS inquired further, whether all the three or four entries would be printed upon a sheet.

THE PRESIDENT thought ordinarily four entries would be a sufficient number. He said further, that if the publishers of this country would take hold of it, in the end they would accomplish a great good to themselves.

MR. BOWKER.—This is a subject which was discussed among three or four gentlemen, some of whom are now present, at the New York office of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, which is also the office of the *Publishers' Weekly*, with specta

reference to both the book trade and the libraries. They are alike concerned in such a system as that spoken of. The difficulty in regard to obtaining the co-operation of the book trade would be, that publishing books is a business and not philanthropy. It is desirable to approach publishers chiefly from the commercial side. They desire to see that there is money in it. The system which was talked over was very much the same as that spoken of, bringing out still more, perhaps, the commercial advantages that might accrue from such a plan. The proposition was, that there should be printed a little circular, note-page size, if you say so, of which the upper part should contain the title, small enough to be pasted on the catalogue card, of which the entry should be made according to the rules of this Association; and that there should be added, as a second part of the upper division, a brief summary of the contents, descriptive notes, or something of that kind. A second part might be used for press notices or commendations of the book, and the lowest for titles of other books on the same subject or by the same author, or for books forthcoming, while the back of the circular might be utilized by the publisher for general advertising purposes. Such a circular would serve not only the purposes of the librarian, but would be of great use to the book trade. There is a great lack of knowledge on the part of many booksellers as to what is inside of the books passing through their hands. Some take the trouble of informing themselves of the contents, but most of them handle books simply as merchandise, of which they know little more than the cover. Such a slip would be very useful to retail dealers, and would promote the intelligent and consequently increasing sale of books. As the top part of the sheet would be pasted on the catalogue card, there could be no objection to the use of the rest of the face and the back as spaces for advertising. It was proposed that this work should be done at a central bureau, like the office of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* and the *Publishers' Weekly*, which would serve both as to the library work and the book-trade interest. It seems to me it would be very desirable to appoint a committee to act, if possible, in connection with publishers, and to take this matter into consideration. I therefore move that a committee of three be appointed, including the President, to take action in this matter, and to ask the co-operation of publishers.

MR. F. W. CHRISTERN was then asked to

state his experience, as a bookseller, as to how far buyers of books make private catalogues.

MR. CHRISTERN said that the only persons he knew of who kept catalogues and were guided by them were a few gentlemen engaged in special lines of study and research. He recalled one instance—that of a well-known professor, who kept a very accurate catalogue, but only of books in his particular line. Gentlemen engaged in the professions of medicine, law, theology, or students and writers of history, sometimes kept up their own catalogues; but as for the general buyer, he never knew of one keeping his own catalogue.

MR. DEWEY said that the method in vogue in Italy was illustrated at the Centennial Exhibition last year, and he thought it would be an excellent thing if it could be introduced here. Every publisher, in sending out a new book, should have printed slips about the size of a postal-card, one for each book, and this card should give all the information possible, in the space, about the book, besides giving the original title, the proper catalogue title, and the name and place of business of the publisher. The brief description of the book should not be a "pull" or commendatory notice, but should rather be an indication of what the author had written about. It would naturally advertise the book, and ultimately increase the sale of a large majority of all the books so issued. The titles given by the printed slips could be readily transferred to the bookseller's catalogue, and the result would be that, whenever a book was called for, any boy could easily find the book and fill the order. The only trouble he could see was that there was danger that the subject would not be properly presented to publishers.

The motion for a committee was adopted, and Messrs. Winsor, Bowker, and Dewey were designated as the committee.

#### PUBLICATION PROCESSES.

MR. DEWEY stated that he had a communication bearing on the subject of printed slips. J. C. Rowell, Librarian at the California University, writes: "I have been thinking of introducing in our library the type-writing machine, for use in cataloguing. The enclosed card is one which one of our professors took home with him to see 'how it would work' (the professor has a type-writer, and did the job himself). Perhaps other librarians have tried this plan. How has it worked?"

THE PRESIDENT stated he had seen some

work done with the type-writer, and he did not approve of it. He thought that the heliotype process would do better work.

MR. EDMANDS.—A friend of mine in Philadelphia told me he had a type-writer in process of construction which would entirely supersede the one used. He pointed out several advantages, and assured me that when it came out it would take the place of the other entirely.

MR. BOWKER.—There was a type-writer exhibited in the Russian Department at the Centennial Exhibition, which was much superior to the American, especially in accuracy, but perhaps not so fast.

It was stated that the American type-writer had recently been very much improved, and many difficulties obviated.

THE PRESIDENT.—I have experimented some with type-writers and electric pens. I never succeeded in getting any satisfactory work.

MR. DEWEY had tried the electric pen, and had been satisfied sufficiently to order one.

#### PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

On the suggestion of the Chair, that the question of the distribution of public documents had been left without action this morning, Mr. Green moved "that a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to consider the subject of the distribution of public documents issued by the general government; that they report through the LIBRARY JOURNAL; that their report include a draft of a bill; and that, with the co-operation of the Executive Board, they be empowered to present such bill to the consideration of Congress."

The resolution was adopted, and the President appointed Dr. Homes, Mr. Green, and Mr. Spofford as the committee.

On motion of Mr. Poole, it was unanimously resolved "that the American Library Association recognizes the inestimable and permanent value of the 'Report on Public Libraries of the United States,' prepared and published the past year by the United States Bureau of Education; and hereby tenders thanks to Gen. John Eaton, the Commissioner of Education, and his assistants, Messrs. S. R. Warren and S. A. Clarke, for the intelligence and zeal with which they planned and accomplished this great work."

#### BUCKRAM FOR BINDING.

THE PRESIDENT mentioned a new material for binding books. He said that some time

ago a paragraph appeared in an English paper asking why buckram could not be used for bookbinding. Mr. Nicholson, of the London Library, was written to by him, and requested to say what he thought of the suggestion, and was also asked what buckram was, as he did not know, nor could he find any samples of it at the stores. He went to a good many places, and wherever he asked if they had such a thing as buckram, they looked at him with surprise and said they never heard of it. He finally heard, through Mr. Nicholson, that buckram was a stout linen cloth, which, being sized and rolled through hot cylinders, became almost as hard as vellum. Mr. Nicholson sent on some samples, about twenty sheets in all. They were used in the covering of several books, and at a little distance the books looked very much as if they were bound in turkey. Mr. Nicholson stated he had been experimenting with it, and he had found it more durable for binding than leather, and not subject to certain effects that are produced on leather binding under unfavorable conditions. The cost of buckram is only about one fifth or one fourth that of morocco. He had made arrangements with an importer to have some introduced in this country; the goods had been detained at Dundee, but would arrive in a short time. There is one drawback to its introduction here, and that is the tariff on all linen articles.

MR. DEWEY said it was the impression of the committee that buckram was to be the coming binding, but that a little more experience was needed before recommending it; that for the present goat instead of this buckram would have to be recommended for binding.

On motion of Mr. Poole, it was resolved "that the thanks of the American Library Association be tendered to the government of the New York Young Men's Christian Association for the use of their hall and the attention which has made the meeting of the Association so agreeable; and to the librarians of New York and Brooklyn for the reception tendered for this evening."

THE SECRETARY then read the report of the Co-operation Committee on library binding (V. I., p. 432). On motion, the report was accepted.

MR. PERKINS thought that there were a great many libraries throughout the country that would desire to know what the recommendation of the Association was in regard to shelf-cataloguing; and he moved, therefore, that where accession-catalogues and shelf-catalogues

were kept distinct, the Association recommend the forms devised by the committee. The motion was adopted.

MR. POOLE stated, in regard to re-binding, that recently he had made a contract to have re-binding done at thirty cents a volume for ordinary-sized books, in a style of which he exhibited a sample to the Convention. The work is done very well indeed, not elegantly but substantially enough for ordinary circulation. With regard to morocco books, he had made a contract for sixty-five cents a volume. This, he said, covered all books of octavo and smaller sizes; but for books larger than octavo the charges were proportionately higher. He stated that the quality of the binding was good; they used the best quality of roan leather.

It was suggested that the matter of binding with buckram should be reported on by the committee through the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, so that in time the Association will receive all the information possible in regard to it.

THE PRESIDENT stated he intended to make special examination in regard to it while in London.

On motion, the meeting adjourned until Thursday morning at ten o'clock, it having been previously decided to give up the night sessions at first proposed, and to continue the Conference into Thursday.

#### FIFTH SESSION.

[THURSDAY MORNING.]

The meeting was called to order by the President at 10:15 A.M.

Prof. E. C. Mitchell's paper on "European Libraries" was read, in his enforced absence, by Mr. Wm. F. Poole, who prefaced it by saying that he had known Prof. Mitchell for about twenty-five years, and as a practical librarian for most of the time. At one time he was librarian at the Newton Theological Seminary, and he was one of the first librarians in this country who mastered and put into practical operation the British Museum system of cataloguing. He is an enthusiast on the subject, and he has educated many librarians in that system. Recently he has been appointed librarian to the Theological Seminary at Chicago; and he has just returned from a trip to Europe, extending over a considerable portion of time. During part of that time he has been Professor of Hebrew at the London University. He is now the Professor of Hebrew Criticism in the seminary at Chicago.

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I wanted to make this statement, so that proper authority may be given to his opinion. Omitting a brief apologetical introduction, I read as follows:

(See p. 12-13.)

THE PRESIDENT announced some changes as found necessary in some of the committees appointed yesterday. In the place of Dr. Holmes, of Albany, on the Committee on the Distribution of Public Documents, he named Mr. Tyler, of Baltimore; and in place of Dr. Holmes on the Committee on the Exchange of Duplicates, he named Mr. Langworthy, of Boston.

MR. DEWEY having taken exception to the excuse of Dr. Holmes, the latter stated that as Congress was paying considerable attention to the state libraries, he thought it would be better to have, as the chairman of that committee, a gentleman who was not connected with any state library, as the other libraries would rather want representatives to speak for themselves.

#### ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

In regard to interesting non-librarians in the work of the Association, Mr. Dewey stated that he was in receipt of quite a large number of letters from persons who wrote that they had recently learned for the first time that there was such a society as the American Library Association, and who expressed the deepest interest in it. He thought this work was very great, and that it would be very desirable to have some statement prepared setting forth the object of the Association. He also wished that this Association might take some action toward a thorough canvass in different sections of the community, and to bring into the ranks of the Library Association all people interested in the work.

This opened a considerable discussion, taken part in by the President and by many others. Mr. Warren explained that the Bureau of Education habitually called attention to the progress of library co-operation, etc., in its reports. Mr. Vinton said that every man in a college was generally so busy that he could not raise his eyes, so that not much co-operation could be expected from college professors. Mr. Tyler said he had received word from a gentleman at Leipzig that he wished to join the Association, which showed that its fame extended across the Atlantic. Mr. Harden, of Savannah, was called on to speak for the South, but said he came only to learn. Mr. Dewey advocated the preparation of a document for general distribu-



tion, explaining the work and inviting everybody to join the Association, by aid of which he thought the membership could be raised within one or two years to a thousand persons. Mr. Green feared that would be premature, since the present technical discussions would scarcely interest the people. Mr. Cutter wished to bring more people to the meetings to listen to the discussions. Mr. Langworthy thought many people in Boston and elsewhere would gladly join if they knew they were eligible.

THE PRESIDENT called for the opinion of Mr. Christern, who stated that only yesterday morning he had mentioned to two parties that the Association was holding its annual convention, and he noticed that they had been here some time this morning listening to the proceedings. He thought that there was great interest in the work of this Association among outsiders.

THE PRESIDENT.—I happened to come in contact with several members of the Board of Directors of the Boston Athenæum, and I have been gratified to hear an expression of their opinion as to the desirability of Mr. Cutter's coming here and going to London to be present at that conference. I think that class of people in Boston is heartily interested in the work of our Association.

MR. EDMANDS thought there was some danger of having too many people come in. The primary object of the Association was the development and administration of libraries; and there might be some danger in having a class of persons come into the Association who could not, from the very nature of the circumstances, appreciate the peculiar work of the Library Association as it is to-day. Mr. Tyler thought that that difficulty might be obviated by having two classes of members; those who represented the real active librarians, and those who simply felt interested in the object of the Association. The President thought that this was not necessary, as the thing would probably regulate itself. The people who are primarily interested in libraries as librarians would be always in the majority.

THE PRESIDENT.—As I was going along the street, I noticed that the shutters of a fashionable shop were closed; and upon my inquiry whether the house had failed, I was informed that they had simply closed for a few days "preparatory to the fall opening." Mr. Poole, who is a member of a literary club at Chicago, has been sitting very quietly, thinking over the

subject, I suppose, and I have no doubt he has been preparing himself for a grand opening. (Laughter.)

MR. POOLE.—It seems to me that there are two ways of bringing this matter before the public. The first is through the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, and the second is that individual librarians, who are really interested in this matter, write it up for insertion in the local newspapers, and present it in the different forms in which it is capable of being presented. I think in Chicago I have it in my power to influence this matter there, and to bring it before the public.

That literary association of which you have spoken, and of which I am a member, is composed of about 150 gentlemen—of judges of the courts, leading lawyers, leading ministers, leading architects, and literary men generally, without reference to their beliefs in religion, politics, and social science. It is a very interesting society, and is capable of doing a very great work. A society like this is not possible in Boston for this reason: Boston is an older community. There are too many tape-rolls of respectability running down through seven or eight generations; and it is impossible in Boston to have a society of this kind consisting of more than a dozen or fifteen members, because they don't belong to each other. Now, in the Far West we are on a glorious equality—and that is one reason why I like the West. We all stand on a general footing, and I shall take great pleasure when I return to Chicago in bringing this matter before that literary club, to interest those gentlemen in it. I think I can get quite a number of subscriptions for the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*. I think every man should be a centre of influence for carrying out this object.

MR. POOL of New York thought that he might be able to bring this matter before several societies of the Young Men's Christian Association, especially through the Association paper, the *Watchman*, in Chicago. He thought with Mr. Poole that every one should become a centre, exercising an influence in some direction.

On motion, it was resolved that a document be prepared setting forth the object of the Association, accompanied by a cordial invitation to people interested in the work to join in that work, and that this document be distributed under direction of the Executive Board.

MR. GREEN suggested, as to Prof. Mitchell's paper criticising European libraries, that it



might be considered scarcely courteous by our English brethren that such strictures should be printed in the report; but it was urged, on the other hand, that the Association was not necessarily responsible for the views expressed in papers read, and, further, that the English librarians had shown a desire for friendly suggestion. Mr. Poole expressly stated that his letters showed a cordial wish to join in common progress. Mr. Green desired that the Association should maintain an attitude of deference toward the older libraries of the other side.

On motion, the delegates to London were authorized to act in conjunction with the English Conference, in relation to making the LIBRARY JOURNAL an international organ for the English-speaking world.

#### DESIGNATION OF SIZES.

THE SECRETARY submitted the report on the designation of the sizes of books (V, I, p. 178), and gave an abstract of Mr. Huling's article (p. 168). He stated that there was general agreement except in the range between thirty-two-mos and octavos.

MR. GREEN always liked an abbreviation to be significant. Instead of writing D for the size of duodecimo, he would like to write D, with a little zero. It seems to me that would show to the eye what was meant by the "D." I like to have a catalogue speak for itself, without cogitating too much on what is meant, and also without writing too much.

MR. JONES said that, while the need of a more uniform system of size-record was fully appreciated by the publishers, the measurements proposed in the report of the Co-operation Committee differed in some instances too materially from those of the present style to be generally acceptable to the book trade. To secure the success of any new scheme the co-operation of the trade was most desirable, and this could be more readily effected by conforming, as closely as possible, the proposed sizes to those already in use than by making any radical changes. In the plan offered by the committee nearly all sixteenmos (as the Holt "Leisure Hour" novels), as well as the larger eighteenmos and twenty-four-mos (as the Osgood "Little Classics" editions), would be entered under D, while under S would fall the smaller twenty-four-mos and thirty-two-mos (as the Harper "Half Hour" series and the Osgood "Vest Pocket" books), thus causing such a transposition of names as would prove most embarrassing

in the handling of books. As of current popular publications the larger part, and the part perhaps more frequently handled, came under one of the three sizes of duodecimo, sixteenmos, or twenty-four mos, it was especially necessary for trade purposes to actually discriminate between these by shortening the range of each. To effect this he suggested the introduction of a size between the T and the S, to range from, say, ten to fourteen centimetres, and a modification of the measurements of S and D so as to cover books running respectively from fourteen to seventeen and from seventeen to twenty-one centimetres. A scheme giving approximately these measurements, he thought, would meet with the co-operation of publishers, and those papers which were in the habit of recording new books (one of which, the *Library Herald*, had shown its dissatisfaction with the odd system by a scheme of its own) would very willingly adopt it.

THE PRESIDENT thought if there were such discrepancies between the recommendations of the committee and the actual measurements of the sizes of books now used, that would make the recommendations impracticable.

On motion of Mr. Dewey, the first and second rules were adopted.

MR. DEWEY moved that so much of the rule as appertains to the size of books below the quarto be referred to the Committee on Fifteen Title-entries, which was carried.

MR. EDWARDS asked whether it would not be well to indicate the slight difference between 16<sup>mo</sup> and 18<sup>mo</sup> by some numerical designation added to the 16<sup>mo</sup>, instead of employing a separate numerical sign exclusively for 18<sup>mo</sup> itself.

MR. EVANS suggested E for eighteenmos.

On motion, Mr. Green's suggestion for the addition of the degree or zero mark was approved by the Conference, Mr. Evans opposing it as giving unnecessary expense, and Mr. Dewey favoring it as preventing questions.

#### LIBRARY STATISTICS.

THE SECRETARY then read the report of the Co-operation Committee on Library Statistics (V, I, p. 129).

MR. LOMAX desired to have the first item in the Receipts table changed so as to be the last, in order to be saved the trouble of subtracting. He made the same point in regard to the Expenditures table.

On motion, both tables, amended in accordance with Mr. Edmonds' suggestion, were adopted.

The Circulation table was, on motion, adopted as recommended by the committee.

MR. EDMONDS made a suggestion that the first item in the Accessions account, "Number of volumes in the library as last reported," be transposed to the bottom, which suggestion was, on motion, adopted.

It was pointed out that the item "Number of volumes received since last report" referred to the same thing as the item "Number of missing volumes restored since last report." (?)

On motion, the item "Number of volumes received since last report" was stricken out.

On motion, the Accessions table as amended was then adopted.

MR. GREEN thought it might be well to know, also, how many persons daily used the library, as well as the number of books used.

THE PRESIDENT explained that in Boston each person using the reading-room called for the magazine, etc., by a slip on which was also written his name. The slips bearing different names were counted, and the number of persons who used the reading-room is equivalent to the number of different names appearing on the slips.

MR. GREEN thought several persons might have the same name, and the result would not be accurate.

THE PRESIDENT said that this happened very seldom.

THE SECRETARY then read the Growth, Size, and Use table. He suggested that the item "Essays, poetry, drama, etc.," be separated.

MR. EDMONDS inquired if, in the item of "Foreign literature," books were distributed according to the subject-matter, without reference to the languages in which they are written.

THE PRESIDENT stated that the practice at the Boston Public Library was that books on scientific subjects are classed together, irrespective of language, and books of a historical nature are put in sections devoted to the respective languages.

MR. DEWEY.—I move that the word "Classification" be prefixed to the words "Growth, size, etc.," that "Poetry and drama" be separated from "Essays;" that, in order to make

the item "Periodicals" a little clearer, the word "Literary" be prefixed to the word "Periodicals;" and that the item "Foreign literature," in order not to be misleading, be changed to the words "Belle-lettres" or something like that.

THE PRESIDENT suggested that the words "Light literature" would be better understood by readers of that class of literature.

MR. DEWEY's motion, with the President's suggestion, being put to vote, was adopted.

On motion, the table as amended was adopted.

#### ALPHABETIZING SLIPS.

MR. CUTLER then explained to the Convention a newly-adopted system to dispense with the wooden blocks formerly used to separate catalogue slips alphabetically. He exhibited a zinc sheet, the lettering being put on by chemicals, which he had found much more useful than the wooden blocks.

#### FILING OF PAMPHLETS.

Some inquiry was made how pamphlets and periodicals were best kept in reading-rooms.

THE PRESIDENT stated that the practice now was to keep them in pigeon holes in the reading-room, so that everybody who desires can have access. This, he said, was found to be the best system, and comparatively few numbers got lost. He had found that formerly a man desiring to consult a number of pamphlets or periodicals would, in almost every instance, take the whole batch at once, place them on his chair and sit on them, and then take them as they were wanted. In this way many other persons would be prevented from having access to them.

On motion of Mr. Dewey, it was resolved that a clause be added to the by-laws, that all committees which had not reported at the meeting of the Association should report, as soon as practicable, through the columns of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

On motion, it was resolved to proceed in a body and inspect the collections at the Metropolitan Art Museum this afternoon.

THE SECRETARY.—As far as I can see, we have transacted all the important business necessary. I therefore move that we adjourn, subject to the call of the Executive Board.

The Conference accordingly adjourned *sine die*.

## SOCIAL RECEPTIONS.

On the evening of Wednesday the delegates to the Conference became the guests of the librarians of New York and Brooklyn, and the pleasant parlors of the Young Men's Christian Association were opened for their entertainment. A number of prominent New York gentlemen were invited to meet the visiting librarians, and the gathering, which was largely attended by the members of the Association, proved an enjoyable occasion for renewing the friendships of the previous year. On the adjournment to the lecture-room (where the supper was served), Rev. Dr. Deems and Rev. H. M. Field spoke with appreciation of the learning and industry evinced in library work, and of the educational influence librarians were so beneficially exerting; Mr. Winsor showed what had already been accomplished by co-operation, and what it was further proposed to do; Mr. Poole spoke of the work in Chicago, alluding to the library bequest of Mr. Newberry, and Mr. Christern and Mr. Salan made brief remarks.

On the following evening an opportunity was given by Mr. Christern for those remaining in the city to meet at his house to say good-by to the delegates to the English Conference. Many gathered for a last word with those going abroad, and the time was enjoyably spent in pleasant conversation.

## REGISTER.

H. H. Ames, Boston.  
John Humphrey Barbout, Librarian Trinity College, Hartford.  
Henry Barnard, Hartford, Ct.  
Homer F. Bassett, Bronson Library, Waterbury, Ct.  
Mary A. Bean, Public Library, Brookline, Mass.  
Charles H. Betsford, Harlem Library, N. Y.  
W. S. Biscoe, Amherst College Library.  
J. W. Bouton, New York.  
R. R. Bowker, *LIBRARY JOURNAL and Publishers' Weekly*, New York.  
J. Carson Brevoght, Librarian Astor Library, New York.  
F. W. Christern, Bookseller, New York.  
Charles A. Cutter, Librarian Boston Athenaeum.  
Charles Darwin, Library of Congress, Washington.  
Melvil Dewey, *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, Boston.

John Disturnell, New York.  
Charles A. Dudgeon, Astor Library, New York.  
John N. Dyer, Librarian Mercantile Library, St. Louis.  
John Edmunds, Librarian Mercantile Library Co., Philadelphia.  
Charles Evans, Librarian Indianapolis Public Library.  
William I. Fletcher, Librarian Watkinson Library, Hartford.  
W. E. Foster, Librarian Turner Library, Randolph, Mass.  
Edward W. Gilman, Am. Bible Society, N. Y.  
Annie R. Godfrey, Librarian Wellesley College, Mass.  
Samuel S. Green, Librarian Free Public Library, Worcester, Mass.  
A. P. Griffin, Public Library, Boston.  
Edward W. Hall, Colby University Library, Waterville, Me.  
George Hannah, Librarian L. I. Historical Society, Brooklyn.  
Wm. Harden, Georgia Hist. Soc., Savannah.  
Caroline M. Hewins, Young Men's Institute, Hartford.  
Henry A. Homes, Librarian New York State Library, Albany.  
Ida F. Howe, Brooklyn Mercantile Library.  
Frederick Jackson, Superintendent Newton Free Library, Mass.  
Emily S. Jones, Brooklyn Mercantile Library.  
L. E. Jones, American Catalogue, New York.  
Arthur Kelly, State Library, Trenton, N. J.  
Rev. Isaac P. Langworthy, Congregational Library, Boston.  
John W. M. Lee, Librarian Mercantile Library, Baltimore, Md.  
F. Leopold, *LIBRARY JOURNAL and Publishers' Weekly*, New York.  
Joshua Limerick, Franklin Lyceum, Hoboken, N. J.  
John MacMullen, Washington Heights, New York.  
Mary B. Meriam, Cataloguer, Canton, Mass.  
Edward J. Nolan, Librarian Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.  
S. B. Noyes, Librarian Brooklyn Mercantile Library.  
W. T. Peoples, Librarian Mercantile Library, New York.  
Frederick B. Perkins, Public Library, Boston.  
Reuben B. Pool, Librarian Y. M. C. A., New York.  
Wm. F. Poole, Librarian Chicago Public Library.

- Edward Pratt, Ass't Librarian Union Theol. Sem., New York.  
 J. Bishop Putnam, New York.  
 Geo. H. Putnam, New York.  
 Thomas P. W. Rogers, Librarian Fletcher Library, Burlington, Vt.  
 Jacob Schwartz, Librarian Apprentices' Library, New York.  
 A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress, Washington.  
 J. Tingley, Alleghany College, Meadville, Pa.  
 Arthur W. Tyler, Librarian Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.  
 Addison Van Name, Librarian Yale College.  
 Frederic Vinton, Librarian College of New Jersey.  
 S. R. Warren, Bureau of Education, Washington.  
 Justin Winsor, Superintendent Boston Public Library.  
 Prof. J. C. Zachos, Cooper Institute, New York.

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*Librarians and their work*—*Christ. union*, Sept. 12. 1 col.  
*The Library Association and its aims*—*N. Y. world*, Sept. 7. 1 col.

"The public may not altogether understand or appreciate the technique of the librarian's profession. There is much, however, which it does understand. It is not blind to the principle which aims to make two books read where one was read before, and a good book to be sought where a poor one had been before preferred. This is a formula that everybody can appreciate; and this is, in a word, the secret of the success which has attended the libraries, which are now felt to be in some degree what American libraries ought to be. Let us recapitulate a few of the points which the discussions of this convention have made clear. We must have library buildings built for administrative purposes and not solely for architectural effect. We must have cataloguing which shall make a library as serviceable to its frequenters as the mental acquisitions of a well-ordered mind are to its possessor. We must understand that the publishing and library interests of the country are not in any degree opposed, but that there are ways of usefulness in which the one can work with the other. We must make the General Government see that in the distribution of its documents there is the maximum waste of public treasure with the minimum of advantage to the public. We must teach cooperators and civic councillors that the usefulness of libraries is just in proportion to the safeguards insuring competent boards of government, and to that liberty of official action which is never dangerous if intrusted to honest hands."

*The library conference*.—*Boston A. advertiser*, Sept. 3. ½ col.

"An indirect but very important advantage will be derived in these annual conferences from the interchange of ideas as to the various details of library management. Librarians, more than any class of professional men, need this, as their profession in its present condition is comparatively a new one. Naturally there has been a tendency in consequence to become wedded to a system, to being unduly sensitive at criticism, and partially to lose sight of the public interest in carrying out a theory. Through this we have no doubt that in some cases the usefulness of libraries has been materially impaired. The mutual discussions of the conference, however, will do much to check this tendency, and will in equal measure increase the value of the library to the public."

*The librarians*.—*Boston traveller*, [N. Y. City], Sept. 13. 1 col.

Also in *Weekly traveller*, Sept. 13, and (*Boston Commonwealth*, Sept. 22.

*The librarians' convention*; [by Shirley Dure?]—*N. Y. world*, Sept. 7. ½ col.

Personal descriptions of librarians present. "This body, with all its quietness, does more to point out the direction good taste is taking in various matters connected with books than any other society perhaps in the country."

*Librarians in council*.—*N. Y. tribune*, Sept. 4. ½ col.

"The librarians find before them for discussion a number of questions of detail which group themselves under two chief problems: how best to economize the administration of the library system, and how best to develop libraries as an educational force. In the latter, the public has a very direct interest; in the former, an interest none the less real because it is indirect—for whatever money or force is saved on the one side can be made to tell on the other."

"The librarian who takes the trouble to come a thousand miles to New York to confer with his brethren, and then to travel twice as far again to consult with his co-workers abroad, insists on being counted as an important factor in modern educational progress. He wants to go down into the schools and teach the teachers to teach not only reading, but how to read; to take the boy and girl by the hand as they pass out from the schoolhouse, and make them understand that their education is only begun; to go out, finally, into the byways and compel the people to come in to the feast by developing their appetite through the lower into the higher classes of reading. This is not easy work, and the first results of such endeavors—as that of Mr. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., in the Quincy schools—are not always encouraging. To accomplish their aims, the librarians have first to teach themselves. This chiefly is what they are in council for, and if they succeed, the next generation—always the refuge of the philanthropists—if not our own, will gladly acknowledge their most useful part in the educational advancement of the people."

*A society of men of letters*.—*N. Y. evening post*, Sept. 5.

"As occasionally there is found a librarian not a member of the association whose sense of courtesy is on the wane, we suggest the passage of a resolution to the effect that the right of readers to use a public library in town or country is a moral maxim, and that they should be assisted by a librarian in the exercise of that right."

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